

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2005

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL J. SUTHERLAND
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CNFJ taps 35 sailors for Guantanamo duty

Masters-at-arms picked from Misawa, Yokosuka, Atsugi, Sasebo

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AP photos

Right: With security on high alert for the inauguration, a fully armed Emergency Response Team officer keeps watch on the South Lawn of the White House on Wednesday as President Bush's motorcade prepares to depart. The ERT is a tactical unit of the uniformed division of the U.S. Secret Service. Above: Navy Seabees shovel snow Wednesday in front of the Capitol as preparations continue for Thursday's swearing-in of President Bush.

Snow doesn't take edge off security as D.C. prepares for inauguration

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

War on terrorism

Gitmo detainee released: Kuwait's first detainee to be freed from the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is now being interrogated by prosecutors in his home country, the head of a group that lobbied for his release said Tuesday. U.S. forces captured Nasser al-Mutairi, 27, in Afghanistan and transferred him to the Guantanamo base with other accused supporters of the country's ousted Taliban regime or al-Qaida terrorist network.

World

India missile test: India tested its most sophisticated short-range missile on Wednesday, a news agency reported.

The surface-to-air missile was test-fired from a range in India's main testing center in Chandipur-on-Sea, Press Trust of India said. With a range of 6 miles, the solid fuel-propelled missile is capable of targeting aircraft and sea-skimming missiles. It can carry a warhead of up to 33 pounds.

Russian school seizure: A top Russian prosecutor said Wednesday that seven suspected accomplices in the terrorist seizure of a school in southern Russia had been killed in special operations, two arrested and charged, and six put on a federal wanted list.

Nikolai Shepel, the deputy prosecutor general for the southern federal district, said that criminal cases had also been opened against five police officers for negligence that permitted the school in the town of Beslan to be seized in September, leading to the deaths of more than 330 hostages.

Forced labor: The Hiroshima High Court in Japan overturned a lower court decision Wednesday and ordered the Japanese government to pay 40 plaintiffs, former Korean forced laborers who survived the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and their bereaved families, 1.2 million yen — or about \$11,665 each.

The court cited the illegality of excluding atomic bomb survivors from compensation on the basis that they live abroad. The plaintiffs live in South Korea.

According to the suit, the laborers were forcibly brought from the Korean Peninsula between August and October 1944 to work at a Mitsubishi Hiroshima machine factory and a Mitsubishi shipping plant in Hiroshima. They were exposed to radiation in the August 1945 atomic bombing.

Zhao's death: Ordinary Chinese base farewell Wednesday to Zhao Ziyang as secu-

rity agents watched, filing past a black-draped portrait of the late Communist Party leader in the villa where he spent 15 years under house arrest after being ousted for sympathizing with democracy activists.

Zhao's family was still talking with the government about whether there could be a state funeral for the leader, who was dismissed in 1989 after expressing support for the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protesters. No decision has been made, said Zhao's son-in-law, Wang Zhihua.

Zhao, 85, died Monday after a prolonged illness.

Fischer in Japan: Supporters of chess master Robert Fischer petitioned a Japanese court Wednesday to free him immediately and let him go to Iceland where he's been granted residency rather than deport him to the United States where he's a wanted man.

Fischer has suffered headaches during his six-month detention in Japan and shouts "Get me out!" when people visit him, said his Japanese fiancée Miyoko Watai. Japan has ordered Fischer, 61, deported to the United States to faces charges of violating international sanctions against the former Yugoslav, for playing chess there in 1992.

States

Police discrimination lawsuit: A former Inglewood, Calif., police officer who was fired for punching a black teenager and slapping him against a patrol car was awarded \$1.6 million Tuesday by the jury in a discrimination lawsuit he and his partner brought against the city.

The jury voted 11-1 in favor of the verdict for Jeremy Morse, said defense attorney Gregory Smith. He said the jury was unanimous in awarding \$810,000 to Morse's partner, Bijan Darvishi, who had been disciplined in connection with the 2002 incident.

Nail gun accident: A construction worker who shot himself in the hand with a nail gun — an accident he didn't discuss until he went to the dentist with a nagging toothache — said he'll change his line of work.

"I'll make pizzas," Patrick Lawler, 23, said Tuesday.

Lawler was working on a house near Breckenridge, Colo., when he accidentally fired the nail into his head.

Kerik investigation: To avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, the Department of Investigations' top inspector will not take part in the investigation of former New York City police commissioner Bernard Kerik, officials said.

Michael Caruso, inspector general of the Department of Investigations since 1990, is also an assistant commissioner at the Department of Correction and is responsible for corruption investigations there.

The agency did not explain why Caruso would not participate, but it is known that he attended Kerik's wedding reception in 1998, and Kerik wrote in his autobiography that Caruso helped him prepare for a job interview in 2000 with then-mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Blake murder trial: A prosecution witness at Robert Blake's murder trial acknowledged he was unsure whether gunshot residue found on the actor's hands and clothing came from firing a gun the night Blake's wife was fatally shot.

"Is there anything about your tests that would exclude the possibility that the defendant fired a gun that night?" Deputy District Attorney Shelli Samuels asked coroner's criminologist Steve Dowell.

"No," Dowell testified Tuesday in Los Angeles.

But on cross-examination, Dowell said it was also possible Blake had gunshot residue on his hands and clothes from other sources the night Bonny Lee Bakley was killed.

Coast Guard safety measures: The Coast Guard plans new safety measures to protect towboat crews from high water after a tugboat sank on the Ohio River last week, killing three of its seven crew members and leaving one presumed dead.

A task force will examine whether to impose towing limits, identify dangerous stretches of river and issue safety rules during high water, Coast Guard Cmdr. Wynman W. Briggs said Tuesday. Its members will also consider whether an assist vessel should be required in dangerous parts of the Ohio during fast currents.

Michael Jackson case: A television journalist has asked a judge to deny a request by prosecutors for him to testify at Michael Jackson's child molestation trial.

Martin Bashir's 2003 documentary prompted an outcry after Jackson said on camera that he continued to sleep in the same room as his young male house guests. Bashir was called by prosecutors to testify about other things the pop star said that may not have made the documentary's final cut.

But Bashir said in a motion filed Tuesday that his work "speaks for itself" and that under California's shield law, journalists cannot be forced to testify about what they observe while reporting a story.

From The Associated Press



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35 sailors tapped for duty at Guantanamo

Masters-at-arms from bases in Japan to work security at detainee facility

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA NAVAL AIR FACILITY, Japan — Sailors from U.S. Navy bases in mainland Japan are preparing for a deployment to one of many front lines in the global war on terrorism — thousands of miles from Afghanistan and Iraq and a short boat ride from Miami.

Commander Naval Forces Japan has been tasked to provide 35 masters-at-arms to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, said Marine Corps Maj. Joe Cross, CNFJ's regional force protection and antiterrorism officer, to work security detail at the island's U.S. military detainee facility.

“Any kid-ish acts — it's not going to cut it down there.”

Seaman Joshua Johnson

One of 22 Misawa sailors chosen for duty at Guantanamo Bay

Misawa Naval Air Facility will send 22 sailors, the largest CNFJ contingent. Yokosuka Naval Base, Atsugi Naval Air Facility and Sasebo Naval Base also are contributing to the deployment.

Masters-at-arms are Navy force protection and antiterrorism specialists assigned to Navy ships and commands with law enforcement and physical security duties.

The Guantanamo Bay deployment is Navywide. Cross said, adding he's not sure of total numbers.

Navy Region Command-Eastern officials said they are sending 12 people from various installations to Guantanamo Bay, spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Lisa Braun said. Nine are enlisted sailors and three are officers.

Not all of the 12 are masters-at-arms, but all the sailors have a Naval Enlisted Classification code of 9575 for correctional custody specialist ashore, spokesman Chief Petty Officer John Musser said.

“They have different rates and come from different commands, but they are a dynamic group of several enlisted (and officer) personnel from different ratings all

sharing that NEC,” Musser said. For example, one sailor is a religious program specialist in a chaplain's office, but has NEC 9575, he said.

No departure date has been set for those traveling from Europe, and officials aren't sure yet how long they'll be gone, Musser said, but their mission is to provide a reprieve to soldiers who have been stationed at Guantanamo Bay for an extended period.

The sailors from Japan all are enlisted members, from E-3 to E-7, with the master-at-arms rating. Most will deploy by mid-February for six months or more, according to Cross.

“The Navy is providing masters-at-arms to form guard companies and corrections companies in support of detainee operations under the control of Commander, Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba,” Cross said. “The companies are comprised of individual augmentees across the Navy versus ‘this unit, you do it.’”

Corrections units are more involved in running the prisons. Cross said, while guard duty entails security of the facility.

For Misawa NAF masters-at-arms, news in mid-December of the Guantanamo deployment came as a surprise.

“We've gone [temporary duty] before, to protect planes or down south (at maintenance bases) to help with air shows, but nothing this serious,” said Seaman Michael Brophy.

“I can't wait,” said the 20-year-old from St. Petersburg, Fla. “It will be a good opportunity to go somewhere new, get some new training experience — plus it's worth it.”

Although Guantanamo is a closed base, Brophy said he's heard there's lots of morale, welfare and Recreation opportunities, but he and the others don't know how much free time they'll have.



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

From left, Seaman Michael Brophy, Petty Officer 2nd Class Drew Koehler and Seaman Joshua Johnson are among 22 masters-at-arms from Misawa Naval Air Facility headed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as part of a Navywide deployment to relieve Army military police at the island's military detention facility.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Drew Koehler also on the list to go, said that most of the other masters-at-arms from Misawa never have worked in a corrections setting.

“I think a lot of us are anticipating... what kind of conditions will we be in, who will we be working for, what kind of training will we have?” Koehler said.

The Misawa sailors say they're mindful of the recent scrutiny of U.S. military tactics in so-called enemy combatant detention facilities such as Abu Ghraib. Last week the Army sentenced reservist Charles Graner Jr. to 10 years for his role in detainee abuse at the infamous Iraqi prison, and now the Justice and Defense departments are investigating FBI complaints of abusive military methods at Guantanamo Bay.

“For the new people coming in (to the Navy), you have to pretty much grow up pretty fast,” said Seaman Joshua Johnson, 20, of Shickshinny, Pa. “Any kid-ish acts — it's not going to cut it down

there.”

“There's no room for error,” Brophy said.

At the same time, it's an opportunity to “be the best example of the Navy and keep the good name of the Navy,” Koehler said.

The CNFJ sailors will receive extensive training before arriving at Guantanamo, where about 550 detainees are being held. The first stop is Navy Region Southeast at Jacksonville, Fla., where the masters-at-arms will complete paperwork and receive equipment. At Fort Lewis, Wash., the Army will provide “detainee skills training,” Cross said, adding he was unsure of the details.

The impact of the deployment to security at U.S. Navy bases in Japan will be minimal, Cross said. The 35 masters-at-arms represent 5 percent of the more than 850 active-duty personnel

throughout Japan providing security at Navy installations. More than 400 Japanese master labor contract workers also help pro-

tect U.S. assets and personnel.

“It's possible for more taskings to come down, but we don't have any specifics right now at all,” Cross said.

Misawa is filling the bulk of the requirement because its joint partnership with Air Force security forces gives the Navy at Misawa “more flexibility with their master-at-arms manpower pool,” Cross said.

This is the first time that CNFJ has been tasked to provide personnel to the Guantanamo Bay prison camp.

“I think most of our security forces saw this as an opportunity to really contribute on the front lines,” he said.

Koehler said it's a chance to “defend our country and feel like we have a major purpose” in the global war on terrorism.

Stars and Stripes reporter Sandra Jontz in Naples, Italy, contributed to this report.

Also Jennifer H. Svan at: svanjp@strips.osd.mil

Navy civilian arrested in alleged assault

Injured man says he was hit with bottle outside Minato bar

BY GREG TYLER
AND HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — A civilian crewmember from a Military Seal Command ammunition ship that made a short port call here remained in Japanese custody Wednesday for suspicion of assault.

Randy Edward Van Dusen, 28, a USNS Kiska crewmember, was arrested for allegedly throwing a beer bottle at a 34-year-old man outside of a Minato bar Sunday, a U.S. Police Department official said Wednesday.

Base officials referred questions to the Far East Military Seal Command in Yokohama. An official there referred questions to Commander, Logistics Group West Pacific in Singapore. A Navy spokesman in Singapore was unable to respond by deadline.

Around 1:10 a.m., the police official said, a man outside the bar approached Van Dusen because he “looked sick.” According to police, Van Dusen hit the man in the head with a beer bottle, causing “cut wounds which will require two weeks to heal.”

Police said the injured man asked an un-

identified individual to call police. Van Dusen still was near the bar when police asked him to come in for questioning. He was arrested around 9:12 a.m.

The police official said Van Dusen admitted to hitting the man, but denied throwing a beer bottle at him.

The case was sent to the prosecutor's office Monday, but Van Dusen had not been charged as of Wednesday, the spokesman added.

The Kiska made a port call Friday through Sunday at Sasebo. The vessel is one of six ammunition ships that are part of the 37-ship Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force, according to the MSC Web site.

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E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@strips.osd.mil

Coping workshop

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota East Elementary School and Yokota Middle School are sponsoring a workshop Wednesday for parents coping with a spouse's absence due to the tsunami relief effort, a temporary-duty assignment or other deployment.

The Parent Talk on Deployment will take place from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. — coinciding with Kid's Klub — in Charlie T's Restaurant at the Yokota Enlisted Club.

Hugh Clark, a family advocacy volunteer, will discuss the stress of deployment on all family members and offer ideas on adjusting to being “home alone with the kids.” A question-and-answer period also is planned.

Call Sandi Johnston at DSN 225-8982/6192 for more information.

From staff reports





U.S. soldiers inspect the scene of a car bomb explosion Wednesday in Baghdad. A wave of car bombings shook the Iraqi capital as rebels stepped up an offensive to block national elections.

Bomb blasts echo across Iraq capital

BY HAMZA HENDAWI
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A wave of car bombings shook the Iraqi capital Wednesday, killing at least 12 people as rebels stepped up their offensive to block the Jan. 30 national election. Other attacks were reported north and south of the capital.

U.S. military officials put the death toll from the day's violence at 26, but the number was based on initial field reports and witnesses and Iraqi officials put the toll lower. Iraqi authorities said 12 people were killed in the bombings and another person killed in a drive-by shooting on a Kurdish political party office.

Al-Qaida's branch in Iraq said it carried out the first of the day's blasts, at the Australian Embassy in the capital. A truck packed with explosives went off outside the concrete barriers in front of the embassy about 7 a.m., killing two people and wounding several, including two Australian soldiers.

A half-hour after the embassy blast, another car bomb killed six at a police station located next to a hospital in eastern Baghdad, the Iraqi Interior Ministry said.

A third car bombing struck at

the main gate to an Iraqi military garrison located at a disused airport in central Baghdad. An officer at the Iraqi Defense Ministry said three Iraqi army troops were killed in that attack.

The U.S. military also said a car bomb detonated southwest of Baghdad International Airport, killing two Iraqi security guards.

Hours later, another car bomb went off in northern Baghdad around noon near a bank and a Shiite Muslim mosque. Iraqi police said one person was killed at that bombing.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi government elected Jan. 30 will almost certainly ask the United States to set a timetable for withdrawing its troops. The New York Times reports senior Bush administration officials as saying.

According to the Times, the reports also warn that the election will be followed by more violence, including an increased likelihood of clashes between Shiites and Sunnis, possibly leading to civil war, the officials said.

The assessments are based on the expectation that a Shiite Arab coalition will win the elections, the officials told the Times.

Stars and Stripes contributed to this report.

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO
Stars and Stripes

RAMADI, Iraq — American soldiers are blanketing the streets and shops of Ramadi with information on the upcoming elections, trying to encourage people to vote in a city where security of polling sites is threatened by insurgents.

Winding through the dusty streets of Tammim, a district on the southwest edge of Ramadi, soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry handed out colorful fliers and instruction sheets Tuesday.

Some times they were greeted by smiles, sometimes by indifference and sometimes by hostile glances.

"Election information! Go vote," called out Sgt. 1st Class Jefferson Pridden, handing out fliers in one of Tammim's marketplaces. "Saddam will not be on the ballot this year," he added with a laugh.

Nearby, Staff Sgt. Ricky Thomas, a 29-year-old Army reservist member from Vleet Plant, La., did the same, trying short phrases of Arabic with the people he encountered.

Most people took the pamphlets, nodded or smiled, and put the papers in their pockets or displayed them on tables or shop windows. But the U.S. military concept is new to many Iraqis.

One man asked soldiers when he would get paid for his vote. Another thought the informational handouts were ballots.

In a small medical clinic, a female staff member — who understood English, but spoke Arabic — wanted to know where the polling stations in Tammim would be. U.S. military officials and the Independent Election Commission of Iraq are waiting to announce that information until a few days before the election, not wanting to give insurgents time to destroy the locations before the vote.

Pridgen, a 42-year-old artillery forward observer-turned civil affairs officer, also used the day to see how well the reconstruction effort was going.

You can gauge the local economy a lot by the quality of goods people are buying and selling," he said, pointing out markets with fresh fruit and clothing stores with new, brightly colored fabrics and relatively expensive shoes. "A few months back, a lot of it was junk. Now you're starting to see good stuff for sale and nice cars on the street."

Quality and price are relative — Tammim is a largely poor area, with garbage piling on many streets and intermittent electrical and water service. Civil affairs teams have been hiring contractors to fix both problems.

Intelligence officials with the 2nd Brigade say they believe the insurgents have been pumping more men and resources into the Tammim area as signs of progress increase. U.S. troops are expecting more attacks in the district as the election nears, and have patrolled the streets aggressively looking for weapons and fighters. The soldiers are among the 3,500 2nd Infantry Division soldiers sent to Iraq from South Korea last fall.

The soldiers, shadowed closely by armored Humvees, had a few tense moments Tuesday. One visibly angry man in a long purple robe took the fliers he was handed and immediately tore them apart. Then he followed Pridgen, tearing up the fliers he handed to other people.

"You can tear as many up as you want. We'll be here every day. We'll bring more," one soldier told the man. Another Iraqi man on the street told soldiers the first man was angry because Americans had killed members of his family.

A few minutes later, a soldier fired warning shots at a vehicle that came too close to the patrol. Civilians in the marketplace ran or cover, but quickly came back onto the streets when it was clear no firefight was going to take place.

E-mail Joseph Giordono at: giordono@stripes.osd.mil

Individual Ready Reserve delays hold up Army's empty war slots

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Half the Individual Ready Reserve members in orders by the Army to fight the war on terror have asked for either a delay or an exemption to the order, and Army officials are approving the majority — 66 percent — of the requests.

Hundreds of other IRR members, meanwhile, simply have failed to show up at deployment stations when ordered to do so.

And instead of declaring the scofflaws as "absent without leave," or AWOL, the Army is choosing to give these people "the benefit of the doubt," Lt. Col. Pamela Hart, an Army spokeswoman in the Pentagon, said in a Tuesday interview.

The combination of IRR deferments and no-shows is slowing the Army's effort to fill critical slots in deploying units.

"It would be fair to say there's a delay," Hart said. Nevertheless, "the [Army] leadership is not alarmed" by the state of the IRR call-up, Hart said.

"We haven't even called the [full] number [of IRR members] we were authorized to call," Hart said. In January 2004, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said the Army could call up to 6,500 people from the IRR in order to fill empty slots in units mostly bound for Iraq and Afghanistan.

The IRR is a category of servicemen who have left active duty or active reserves service but still have time left on their obligation to serve. With the intention of minimizing the disruption to civilians no longer in uniform, Army officials said they "scrubbed the list" of requests to pinpoint 4,402 "absolutely must-call" positions.

Knowing that not everyone called would make the cut, the same officials decided to send orders to

5,674 IRR members to report for training and deployment, a process that will extend through August 2005.

But attrition is turning out to be higher than Army officials had anticipated.

Of the 3,845 mobilization orders sent to IRR members as of Dec. 28, 1,919 people requested either a delay or an exemption from the deployment, Hart said.

An adjudication board at the Army's Human Resources Command in St. Louis has approved 1,258 of the requests, Hart said.

Only 85 requests have been disapproved, while 576 requests are pending a decision.

Meanwhile, another 452 IRR members who were supposed to report to their mobilization stations before Dec. 28 not only did not contact the board, they did not show up at all.

They failed to report "for varying reasons," Hart said, such as not understanding that they have a legal obligation to do so, or because Army personnel officials "did not have the correct mailing address."

However, the Army "hasn't categorized anyone in AWOL status," Hart said, and is not moving to prosecute or punish any IRR member who did not report as ordered.

Instead, officials in the Army's Human Resources Command "is contacting [these 452 people] by phone... to inform them of their different options," such as formally requesting an exemption or delay, Hart said.

Asked why the Army officials appear to be treating the IRR so leniently, Hart replied, "This is a special group of people."

"We're being compassionate with this group of individuals, and giving them the benefit of the doubt," she said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

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Coast Guard hazmat team joins tsunami effort

Little-known group providing crucial service in ravaged region

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

UTAPAO, Thailand — A specialized Coast Guard team arrived to South Asia with the wave of U.S. forces this month to offer a different type of life-saving aid to Operation Unified Assistance.

"We're here to help with the potential of hazardous materials in affected areas," said Cmdr. Anthony Lloyd, commander of the Pacific Strike Team, part of the Coast Guard's national hazardous material and oil spill response group called the National Strike Force.

The team can react to oil spills, ruptured fuel lines, fertilizer and pesticides, household and industrial chemicals, biological and radiological agents or even weapons of mass destruction.

Other services often are surprised to see them participating with the relief mission.

"People wonder why we're not on a boat and what it is we do out here," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Bryan Nystrom, a marine science technician for the Coast Guard and a response technician on the team.

In the United States, the National Strike Force serves as the U.S. government's hazmat team, coming in to partner with local fire departments, the National Guard or the Federal Emergency Management Agency during a crisis.

Members of the force make assessments and recommendations for managing and cleaning up a spill and help with the effort.

Internationally, they assist local governments.

Members of the national team are working in South Carolina in the aftermath of a train derailment that spilled chlorine, causing nine deaths and the evacuation of thousands from their homes. The team was on scene after hurricanes struck Florida last fall, and it responded to the rein and anthrax attacks in Washington in late 2001.

South Asia is one of the rare times they've worked in a large-scale joint operation with other services.

"It's unusual to be part of a joint group," Lloyd said. "Joint operations are typically warfighting operations."

The group has not been called to any of the affected areas, but "as you get into infrastructural reconstruction" there's a potential for us to be involved," Lloyd said. "That's really what we bring to the table. A set of eyes and ears" to seek out hidden dangers possibly buried under debris.

Like most of the forces on the ground, the team had very little time to prepare for the deployment.

"We didn't know what we'd be doing when we got that call,"

Nystrom said. He arrived to the Pacific team from his base at Port Dix, N.J., with the Atlantic team. The group in Asia also has members from the Gulf team out of Mobile, Ala.

The group of 11 deployed to Asia brought with them essential detection tools, including a multi-gas meter to detect dangerous gases and a radiation detector.

They also have a "HazCat kit," a low-tech box of chemicals and a flow chart that can indicate the classification or even identity of unknown liquids or chemicals.

"We didn't know what kind of environment we'd be in, so we brought things that didn't use electricity," said Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Garcia, a damage controlman and a response supervisor on the team.

The group of five, plus Lloyd, are prepared to deal with any type of spill, cracked fuel lines, suspicious cylinders of chemicals, damaged ships leaking oil or household and industrial chemical spills.

The members come from jobs across the Coast Guard. They are selected to attend specialized training that prepares them to be both scientists and crisis managers.

In many crises, they serve as site managers leading other groups with assessments and recommendations. That gives the members, even mid-ranking ones, a high level of responsibility.

"When you're on a response it's more about your qualification than your rank," Nystrom said.

The group's skills mean the team is always in demand. They're deployed an average of 175 days a year.

"I think we're the only service that does 'oil' and hazardous material" response, Garcia said.

The Strike Team members aren't the only Coast Guard personnel working in the region. Two Coast Guard C-130s, used to carry the Strike Team in, now are delivering aid to Sri Lanka.

Off the coast of Indonesia, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Munro is working with the USS Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group 5.

The Coast Guard's presence in the mission demonstrates the new role the Coast Guard is performing as a part of the military's global operations.

"It's another resource that hopefully they're learning they have as an option," Garcia said. "Most of the Coast Guard doesn't even know about the Strike Team."

The participants hope their skills can be of service in the region, Garcia added.

"You definitely get job satisfaction doing a job like this," he said.

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@stripes.osd.mil



JULIANA GITTLER/Stars and Stripes

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Garcia, a damage controlman with the Coast Guard's Pacific Strike Team, is among those in Thailand to assess, clean up or advise local governments about hazardous material spills.

Revised death toll in Indonesia in dispute

BY MIKE CORDER

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — An Indonesian government ministry on Wednesday dramatically raised the country's death toll from last month's tsunami, sending the overall total soaring and into disarray. The nation's foreign minister, meanwhile, sought to reassure donor countries that billions of dollars pledged to aid victims of the disaster would not be siphoned off by corrupt officials.

The jump in Indonesia's estimated toll to 166,320 came after the nation's Health Ministry declared more than 70,000 people previously listed as missing as dead — which would raise the number of lives lost in the 11-nation disaster zone to as high as 221,100.

But confusion surrounded the tally, with another section of the government — the Social Affairs Ministry — sticking to its figure of 114,978.

Officials frequently have cautioned that compiling accurate figures for the dead or missing is almost impossible, and that a definitive total of dead may never be reached. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called on government agencies to get their numbers straight.

Japan issued a brief tsunami warning after a magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck off its eastern coast, sending a scare through the vast zone still struggling to recover from last month's disaster. But officials said the waves generated were less than a foot high and posed little danger.

By contrast, the waves triggered by the Dec. 26 earthquake rose as high as 30 feet.



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STRIPES CLUB

"Unprecedented" effort secures nation's capital

BY MARK SHERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The capital readied for President Bush's second inauguration with rooftop snipers, missile batteries, bomb-sniffing dogs, high-tech monitors and miles of metal barricades, a striking array even in a city accustomed to heightened security since Sept. 11, 2001.

Commuters coped with the return of vehicle checkpoints around the Capital Beltway when Bush was to take the oath of office at noon Thursday. Police began closing the first of more than 100 streets that will be

off-limits to traffic for a day or so. Pedestrians in the downtown area searched for gaps in steel fences and other barriers, a task made harder by a steady snow that began falling mid-morning Wednesday.

This is the first inauguration since the terror attacks in 2001. Since then Washingtonians have learned to deal with street closings and checkpoints, beefed-up bag and body scanners in federal buildings and, occasionally, the middle-of-the-night sound of fighter jets patrolling high above.

Security for this inauguration is an order of magnitude greater than these measures combined. The city government has estimated its security costs at \$17.3 million.

"This is unprecedented when it comes to the level of security that will be in effect for the inauguration and those events that are surrounding it," Secret Service chief Ralph Basham said.

More than 100 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies are taking part in the security operation, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said. Coast Guard cutters are on duty in the Potomac River, while customs aircraft and other surveillance flights are in the skies above the city. Sophisticated sensors to detect chemical, radiological or biological material are in place, police said.

Nearly two dozen transportation security officers from across the nation linked up with the Metro Transit Police to protect the subway system that serves Washington and its suburbs.

Security preparations also were called the most intense ever four years ago, when police erected checkpoints for tens of thousands of people who attended the inauguration and parade. But the fear then was that protesters, upset with the outcome of the contested 2000 election, would try to disrupt the festivities. Some people threw eggs at the presidential motorcade but there was no violence.

Duff goes extra mile for military families

BY BRIAN BOWERS

Stars and Stripes

Amid the preteens squealing to the beat at Tuesday's "America's Future Rocks Today" concert were 16 military family members invited by pop singer Hilary Duff.

The pre-inaugural event, featuring a constellation of pop stars and a visit by President Bush, was a flashy break for children whose parents have been deployed six to nine months each year since 9/11, said Patricia Driscoll, president of the Armed Forces Foundation, which helped arrange for the concert tickets and meet-and-greet session.

Duff typically invites 50 to 100 military family members to her concerts because she wants to help troops and encourage their families. "I think that it was something that we wanted to do to give back," she said Monday.

Duff also has visited wounded troops at military hospitals, including a stop at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., earlier this week.

"I have so much respect for them," she said. "They make me feel so grateful. ... They are truly heroes."

Such celebrity events grab attention for the Armed Forces Foundation but its biggest efforts touch individual families. Driscoll estimates it has helped about 10,000 military families since the war on terrorism began.

The foundation's efforts range from fishing events to helping families cope with the trauma of combat wounds, Driscoll said. A major initiative helps families pay hotel bills during time spent with hospitalized troops.

Marine Lt. Col. Jim Byrne, who has worked with wounded Marines at Bethesda, said the foundation has paid for a block of rooms at the base's Navy Lodge for visiting family members.

"It's very helpful for these Marines to have their family members to help them get better," Byrne said.

E-mail Brian Bowers at: bowersb@stripes.osd.mil



Singer Hilary Duff performs at Tuesday's pre-inaugural event "America's Future Rocks Today — A Call to Service" youth event at the Army in Washington.

U.S. still divided but hopeful for its future

BY NANCY BENAC

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — You can only stay livid for so long. Or elated, for that matter.

On the eve of President Bush's second inauguration, the deep divisions that played out on Election Day remain. But that all-American tendency to find cause for optimism is at play — for some of the most disgruntled, perhaps only by anticipating that change may be only four years away.

Worries about the daily tick-tock of casualties in Iraq, the threat of terrorism, Social Security's future, health care costs, lost jobs and other issues are part of the national outlook for even some of the most solid Bush supporters. But don't look for too much doom-and-gloom — hopeful for their watchword even if their skepticism has ebbed somewhat since the elections.

Tom Patterson, a professor at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, said the transition period after any election softens hard feelings. But he said this time that process is moving more

slowly than normal in a nation that divided itself so firmly into red states and blue states on Nov. 2.

Many an American — 60 percent in a recent Associated Press poll — approaches the inauguration feeling hopeful about the next four years.

For 54-year-old Cheryl Schmit, of rural Fresno, Calif., that optimism is grounded in the improving financial outlook for the nation and her family.

Charles Hahn, a homeless army veteran who spends much of his time at the library in Nashville, Tenn., singles out Bush's leadership as commander in chief in confidently pronouncing the nation to be on the right track.

"I'll back him until the day I die," says Hahn, 50.

Many of Bush's detractors already have coping strategies in place for the next four years, and often they involve turning their attention elsewhere.

Ellen Friedman, 61, a retiree taking a stroll with her husband on Manhattan's West Side on a chilly, overcast day, offers her plan for coping with the second Bush term in two words: "Ignoring him."

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STARS AND STRIPES

Salute: Troops enjoyed show

SALUTE, FROM PAGE 4

He loved the event, and pointed out how the Marines stood for the Navy's official song "Anchors Aweigh" and laughed when various services roared when they were mentioned.

"It's pretty amazing to see all the guys from the different services. And we get to see the president. It's pretty awesome!"

Marine Sgt. Levi Halford, 23, of Orlando, Fla., who teaches field communications to officers at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia, was nervous at first about coming.

"It seemed like a good place to attack, the inauguration, but it's an honor to be here."

Halford was in Afghanistan with the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, and was somewhat less enthusiastic than the president about our successes there.

"It's gonna be many years before it can stand on its own two feet now."

Some of the people on stage read historic letters home. Others, including the president's father, George H.W. Bush, read their own.

One such person was Lt. Kathy McConeyk Zeller, an Army Reserve nurse, who read a letter she wrote from Afghanistan last April.

"Soldiers here become frustrated that Afghanistan isn't mentioned more often on CNN. They feel people think they are fighting 'last year's war' and that they are being forgotten."

Clements worried about that same thing.

"I just want to tell [those deployed] 'Thank you.' And I'll be back. Keep the tent warm."

E-mail Pat Dickson at: dicksonp@stripes.osd.mil

Powell says goodbye to State Department

BY GEORGE GEDDA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell said goodbye to State Department employees on Wednesday and thanked them for the successes achieved during his four memorable years as America's chief diplomat.

Hundreds of department personnel gave Powell a raucous ovation lasting almost a minute when he appeared for the farewell ceremony in the department's main lobby.

They applauded for about eight more

minutes as he shook hands after concluding his remarks.

With his wife, Alma, standing at his side, Powell spoke to the gathering from a staircase that leads to a second-floor mezzanine. "You were my troops," Powell said, evoking memories of the 35-year military career that preceded his foray into diplomacy.

"Even though I'm stepping down, I will never leave you," Powell said. "I will always be part of this wonderful family."

He spoke moments before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmed

national security adviser Condoleezza Rice as his successor en route to her confirmation by the full Senate. [See story on Page 8]

As he began his remarks, the season's first snow began to fall.

Powell's final exit from the State Department was to take place later on Wednesday. He will remain in office until Rice is sworn in.

Among achievements during his tenure, Powell cited the global war on terrorism, NATO expansion, improved relations with China, Russia, India and Pakistan and a doubling of foreign assistance.

He made only a brief reference to Iraq, noting the "despicable regime" there as well as the one in Afghanistan.

Before the ceremony, his staff and senior members of the department presented him with the chair he used at the White House Cabinet room.

Department employees will look on Powell's tenure with fondness, said John Limbert, president of the American Foreign Service Association, the union of career diplomats.

"The reason is simple: On his first day in the department he promised to lead, and he did," Limbert said recently.

Poe remembered by fan

BALTIMORE — The mystery man was dressed for the cold rather than tradition, and some spectators were not quite as respectful as in years past.

But for the 56th year, a man stole into a locked graveyard early on Edgar Allan Poe's birthday and placed three roses and a half-empty bottle of cognac on the writer's grave in Baltimore.

Jeff Jerome, curator of the Poe House and Museum, who has seen the mysterious visitor every Jan. 19 since 1976, gathered with about 20 people Tuesday night to glimpse the ritual in sub-20 degree temperature.

No one, not even Jerome, knows the identity of the so-called "Poe Toaster." The visit was first documented in 1949, a century after Poe's death.

This year, some spectators "created a nuisance," Jerome said. Some entered the locked cemetery; others confronted Jerome after the stranger left and demanded that he reveal his identity.

Columbine-like plot

BROCKTON, Mass. — A teen accused of plotting a Columbine-style massacre at Marshfield High School was freed on \$20,000 bail after a judge ruled he posed no threat to the community.

Judge Suzanne DeVecchio ordered Joseph Nee to stay away from all Marshfield schools and school-related activities. She also set a 9 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew and ordered him to finish his senior year with tutors and to undergo random drug tests.

D.C. standoff ends

WASHINGTON — A man threatening to blow up his van waged a standoff with authorities a short distance from the White House on Tuesday, triggering the evacuation of several blocks of downtown on the first day of inaugural activities.

The episode, which ended peacefully about four hours later, did not appear to be related to terrorism or the inauguration but instead to a family matter, authorities said. The response — hundreds of officers, armored vehicles, snipers on rooftops, instant road closings — underscored the tight security in Washington.

The man, whose police identified Tuesday night as Lowell Timmers, 54, of Cedar Springs, Mich., about 20 miles north of Grand Rapids, was charged with violating a federal law that prohibits "any threat" to do harm or damage with fire or explosives.

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FBI alerts Boston to 4 possible terror suspects

BY DENISE LAVOIE
The Associated Press

BOSTON — The FBI notified Boston area law enforcement Wednesday to be on the lookout for four people described as possible terror suspects who may be headed to the area.

A federal law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the matter remains under investigation, told The Associated Press that the FBI's joint terrorism task force has not yet

corroborated a tip that the suspects entered the United States through Mexico in recent days, possibly bound for Boston.

The official stressed the tip is one of many from around the country that routinely are forwarded to local task forces for further investigation.

No credible, specific threat has been identified in connection with the tip about suspects possibly entering the country from Mexico.

The investigation prompted Gov. Mitt Romney, who was in Washington to attend

Thursday's presidential inauguration, to decide to return to Boston later Wednesday evening, his spokesman, Eric Fehrnstrom said.

The governor planned to hold a news conference in Washington on Wednesday night to discuss the matter before returning home.

FBI spokeswoman Gail Marcinkiewicz said the terror alert had not been raised for Boston.

"Basically, what you have here is information that we often get," she said. "It's uncorroborated at this time."

"It's been passed on to our law enforcement partners and we're working it aggressively," she said.

Among the law enforcement agencies alerted was the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, where Deputy Chief Paul MacMillan told the AP that an "alert bulletin" was issued to its officers, as well as subway, train, bus and station workers to be on the lookout for the individuals.

"There is no specific threat or target indicated," he said, declining to discuss the details further.

Insanity defense likely at Mo. stolen-baby trial

BY KEVIN MURPHY
AND KAREN DILLON
Knight Ridder Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Five times she faked pregnancies. At least once her stomach grew hard and large like an expectant mother's, even though she was incapable of having children.

Desperate for a child, she stole an expectant mother and killed her baby, according to a grand jury indictment.

Now, a jury may have to decide whether Lisa Montgomery was insane or should be held responsible for her alleged actions.

Montgomery is accused of strangling Bobbie Jo Stinnett in Skidmore, Mo., last month and cutting her fetus eight months from the womb.

Montgomery, of Melvern, Kan., was to be arraigned Thursday, and lawyers and psychiatrists said pleading not guilty by reason of insanity may be her only hope. She confessed to the killing, according to an FBI affidavit.

U.S. Attorney Todd Graves said last week that Montgomery could pursue an insanity defense in seeking acquittal. If she is found guilty, she could try an insanity defense again during the penalty phase. Graves is considering seeking the death penalty.

The insanity issues in Montgomery's case likely would include her history of phantom pregnancies, the gruesome nature of the crime and premeditation, lawyers contacted about the case said.

Federal law states that insanity is a defense if the "defendant as a result of severe mental disease or defect was unable to appreciate the nature and quality or the wrongfulness of his acts."

Montgomery's psychological history and her state of mind at the time of the crime would be evaluated, said Saul Faerstein, a Beverly Hills, Calif., forensic psychiatrist.

If she is found to have committed the crime, Faerstein said, the jury will weigh questions such as "What was she thinking when she did it, and did she understand the wrongfulness of what she was doing by trying to cover up what she was doing?"

The assumption is that a person has to be "somewhat deranged" to murder with their own hands,

Faerstein said. But being deranged doesn't mean a killer needs the high burden of legal insanity, he said.

Insanity pleas are rare, with various studies showing that fewer than 1 percent of defendants use them.

"It's always hard to have a successful insanity defense," said Barbara Bergman, president-elect of the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. "It's not a defense juries find palatable. It's often viewed as an excuse."

Initially, Montgomery's defense lawyers may try to determine to what extent her fake pregnancies demonstrated mental illness.

Relatives say Montgomery was a convincing liar, and they warned her husband, his parents and others about her fake pregnancies. Montgomery had a tubal ligation to prevent her from having more children, close relatives said.

But even her sister, Patty Hedberg, who was unshakable in her belief that Montgomery could not get pregnant, wavered once.

A little over a year ago, after Hedberg spotted Montgomery in a Lyndon, Kan., cafe, Montgomery pulled up her shirt and said, "Feel it, feel it," placing Hedberg's hand on her belly.

"It was hard like she was pregnant," Hedberg said.

Montgomery may have suffered from a form of psychotic condition known as pseudocyesis in which a person seeks attention by faking or lying about a pregnancy, experts say. To appear pregnant, women have been known to actually learn how to swallow air to bloom their bellies.

But more common is a condition called "dissociation" in which a woman actually believes she is pregnant and will experience symptoms, including a distended belly, enlarged breasts and cessation of the menstrual cycle, until she is forced to realize she is not pregnant. Depression can follow.

The violent nature of the alleged crime could raise questions about sanity, Bergman said.

"When a jury looks at a crime and tries to determine if the defendant was insane, the bizarreness of the crime is at least some evidence," Bergman said. "This is not the sort of thing a rational human being would often do."

Saudi Arabia dismissed in 9/11 suit

NEW YORK — The kingdom of Saudi Arabia, three Saudi princes and several Saudi financial institutions were dismissed as defendants in six civil lawsuits accusing them of providing support to al-Qaida before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Judge Richard Casey said Tuesday that the president, not the courts, has the authority to label a foreign nation a terrorist, though he said he understood the "desire to find a legal remedy for the horrible wrongs committed on Sept. 11, 2001."

The lawsuits alleged more than 200 defendants provided material support to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida.

Racial bias alleged at Waffle House

ATLANTA — Black customers who say they were discriminated against at Waffle House restaurants in Georgia and Alabama filed federal lawsuits against the chain Tuesday.

The coordinated lawsuits, which join two others

filed last week in North Carolina and Virginia, claim servers announced they would not serve blacks, deliberately served unsanitary food to minority patrons, directed racial epithets at blacks and became verbally abusive when asked to wait on blacks.

While plaintiffs attorneys said 20 discrimination cases already were pending against the Norcross, Ga.-based company, Waffle House said it has a policy to train workers "to treat all customers equally."

Evolution sticker fight

MARIETTA, Ga. — A school board is planning to challenge a federal judge's order to remove stickers in science textbooks that call evolution "a theory, not a fact."

In a 5-2 vote, the Cobb County school board decided to appeal last week's ruling. Board members said U.S. District Judge Clarence Cooper's order to remove the stickers immediately "amounts to unnecessary judicial intrusion into local control of schools," according to a statement.

From The Associated Press

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Fueled up and running

Slowly but surely, New Zealand's Datsuns travel road to success

BY CHUCK MYERS
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The Datsuns understand the value of patience. The New Zealand rock quartet (bassist/vocalist Dolf de Borst, guitarist Phil Buscke, guitarist Christian Livingstone and drummer Matt Osment) has made slow but steady strides over roughly the past 10 years.

With a reputation for its frenetic, high-powered stage shows, the band began to gain a full head of steam in the past two years on the strength of positive reviews, particularly in the British press, for its self-titled debut album in 2003 and solid sophomore effort, "Outta Sight/Outta Mind" (V2 Records), in 2004.

"On the first record, everything's pretty much foot to the floor," recalled de Borst. "It kind of felt like a singles collection or something like that. Because, in a way, we were doing that." But with the second record, there's definitely songs we recorded for that. I think we recorded 14 songs and ended up leaving a couple off, which, I think, actually are amazing songs."

While contemporaries such as The Strokes and The Vines stumbled with releases last year, The

Datsuns continued to make strides forward. "Outta Sight/Outta Mind" serves up the group's signature music punch infused with musical influences ranging from hard rock and punk to 70s-era glam rock. De Borst noted, for instance, that the group went for a glam edge on the "Outta Sight/Outta Mind" number "You Can't Find Me." Another tune, the thumping "Messing Around," likewise offers a touch of glam, accented by a decided ZZ Top-Texas style bite.

A bit of good fortune shined on The Datsuns as it prepared to work on "Outta Sight/Outta Mind." John Paul Jones, bassist and keyboardist for legendary rock band Led Zeppelin, caught one of the band's shows and offered to assist with producing "Outta Sight/Outta Mind," which The Datsuns accepted gladly.

Jones applied a subtle touch to the album, leaving no hint of an overt Zeppelin footprint on it. If there's aggressive Zeppelin-like thrust to be found anywhere, it is the final track, "I Got No Words," Buscke explained, however, that the song actually derived from a riff the group had toyed with for some time.

"It was kind of like a riff that we had around for a long time,



Drummer Matt Osment and bassist Dolf de Borst of the rock band The Datsuns let the rhythms rip during a concert in Washington, D.C., in December.

and we didn't really know what to do with. We used to just jam with that riff at sound checks and stuff like that."

Originally called Trinket, the group changed its name to The Datsuns after it won a "battle of the bands" competition in New Zealand in 1997. Each band member soon adopted a Datsun surname, as a way to distinguish themselves from players in other bands with similar names. In 2004, The Datsuns relocated to London to be closer to the music world pulse.

While the band's albums show its musical growth and have enjoyed positive feedback, the group feels more at home on the stage than in the studio.

"I think we've always been a band that comes from performing and playing live to people," observed De Borst.

"And we're kind of making the transition to being both, making it 50-50, which I'll never be comfortable with, because I always kind of believe that performance is the most sort of honest way to playing music and getting it across to people."

Yet the frontman also added that there's still plenty of room for the growth in the studio — but at a deliberate pace set by the group.

"We're still kind of looking to make a record that really defines us, and pushes our foot down as not just as really good performers, but as songwriters. ... We've only made two records the whole time we've been together. And usually bands don't even last as long as we have. I think making the next record we'll take a lot more time."

Chefs to cook up fun

Now that celebrity chefs Todd English and Ming Tsai are launching their own reality TV show, they feel free to criticize another one.

Neither liked the NBC show "The Restaurant," which featured celebrity chef Rocco DiSpirito, they said, because it took the fun out of their business.

"A lot of chefs were a little bit miffed because it really portrayed the restaurant business as a negative place to be, which it's not," Tsai said this past weekend. "I mean, the buzz that we get as chefs is like the sports high when you run a marathon."

Their upcoming PBS series "Cooking Under Fire" is a competition that goes to several cities to find someone who could be a cook at a top restaurant — a restaurant, they hope, that's a lot more fun than "The Restaurant."

"It was an attack on our business in a way that I think ... took it down the wrong path," English said. "For some reason, they thought that it would be good TV. I think most people saw through it, and that's why it's not on anymore."

Film rolling without Dylan

Martin Scorsese has been working on a film about Bob Dylan for two years and there's one important person he hasn't spoken to about it: Bob Dylan.

"I'd not like to deal with the man directly," Scorsese told television critics this weekend. "I'd like to create the story, to find the story, first of all, and then play it out the way I think it's right."

The film concentrates on Dylan's early performing years from 1961 to 1966 and will run this summer as part of the PBS "American Masters" series.

Scorsese directed "The Last Waltz," chronicling the final performance of former Dylan backup The Band.

Scorsese has access to 10 hours of fresh Dylan interviews conducted by the singer's manager, and said he may eventually ask Dylan a few questions.

Even then, he can never be quite sure if the always inscrutable Dylan is being upfront or not.

"I'm trying to make as honest a film as possible without unnecessary restrictions," he said. "But I think for me, of course, I'm on his side, so I might come out in terms of a pro-Dylan."



Dylan

Blair tea draws \$20K bid

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair joined high-profile pop stars and British royalty Monday in a radio broadcast to benefit tsunami victims.

Some 270 British radio stations broadcast the 12-hour special, raising more than \$5.6 million.

Blair offered for auction a tour of Downing Street and time to join him for a cup of tea. Bids for the experience reached more than \$20,573.

An estimated 26 million people tuned into the broadcast, which featured a live performance by pop star **Ronan Keating** and talk segments with **R&B artist Jazmine**, Oasis frontman **Liam Gallagher** and **Ozzy Osbourne's** wife, **Sharon**.

From The Associated Press

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YOUR MONEY

Google offers new freebie

Company's latest gamble is a no-charge photo service

BY CHRIS GATTHER

Los Angeles Times

SAN FRANCISCO — As a new version of Picasso, Google Inc.'s digital photo software, is due for release Tuesday, offering additional ways to edit, print and share pictures.

It also has a feature that Web surfers have come to expect from Google: It's free.

Google acquired the company behind Picasso in July, and immediately slashed the price of its software from \$30 to nothing. When Picasso co-founder Lars Perkins asked Google executives how the software would make money, he recalled, they told him, "Don't worry about it."

In fact, Google has eliminated or slashed the price of every service it has acquired, including weblog software Blogger and online mapping program Keyhole. And many of the services its own engineers created feature no ads or subscriptions; these include social-networking software, a program for conducting queries through text messaging on cell phones, and services for searching through computer hard drives, scholarly material and university Web sites.

A publicly traded company giving away nearly all its services may seem nuts. But people who watch the company closely say there could be a method to the madness.

One theory is that Google is throwing out a swarm of ideas and hoping one will become its next billion-dollar business. After all, Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page created the search engine as Stanford University graduate students and attracted millions of users before deciding to sell advertisements to run alongside search results.

Those ads have turned Google into one of the Internet's most profitable companies. The Mountain View, Calif.-based firm posted a profit of \$106 mil-

lion on sales of \$1.5 billion in 2003. Its 2004 sales are expected to double and its profit to triple when Google reports earnings Feb. 1.

Now, said Mark Mahaney, an analyst with investment firm American Technology Research, the Internet giant seems to be taking a "Field of Dreams" approach: Build it, and they will come — Google will worry about how to cash in later.

"With almost every other company, I would say that takes them to Froogle, Google's online store, for ink cartridges and other printer supplies."

And when Picassos print a photo with the latest version of the software, they get a button that takes them to Froogle, Google's online store, for ink cartridges and other printer supplies.

Picasso didn't have the luxury of giving away its software when it was part of Ideaball, the high-tech incubator in Pasadena, Calif., that initially funded the photo services company. To Ideaball Chief Executive Bill Gross, Picasso seems like one piece in Google's grand plan to house people's e-mail, photos and other digital files in addition to launching their Web searches.

"I think Google wants to be the place where you store your life," he said.

"What they're doing is brilliant. They are using each of their services to promote their other services very well."

"We're a profitable company," said Alan Eustace, a vice president of engineering. "We can afford to try things that might delight our users."

The company may add advertising to some products. With others, another approach to making money might become apparent. And some ideas will never make a dime, but Google executives claim not to mind.

We care about our shareholders and maximizing value," Eustace said. "But our company would make very poor decisions if we looked at everything through the lens of making money."

Don't let salesmen bully your car buy

Dear Tom and Ray:

I have been trying to buy a new Toyota Prius. Recently, two Southeast Florida dealers have told me they're in short supply. They both say they'll put me on the waiting list if I give them a deposit of \$1,000 and agree to pay \$5,000 above

the sticker price. Frankly, that ticks me off. Why is doing right by the environment becoming so difficult? I do need to buy a car soon. Please answer before I do something crazy, like buy a Hummer! — Nurgun

RAY: This is what's known as price gouging, Nurgun. It's done by short-sighted dealers who don't realize that someday they might have more customers, rather than the other way around. And the manufacturer can't legally prevent its dealers from doing this. It's only allowed to "suggest" prices (hence, the manufacturer's suggested retail price).

TOM: You know those dealers are only going to use your \$5,000 to buy a bigger power boat, which will only further add to the pollution in South Florida.

RAY: So, if you really want to help the environment, here's what I suggest: Buy a regular Honda Civic, which gets 30 mpg anyway.

TOM: Then take that \$5,000 and do the following: Put aside \$1,000 to pay for the difference in gasoline costs throughout the life of the Civic versus the Prius.

RAY: Then take \$1,000 and do

nothing for your favorite environmental organization.

TOM: And then, with the remaining \$3,000, hire a picketer to walk outside each of these dealerships with a big sign that says "This Dealership Gouges Its Customers. Shop Elsewhere."

RAY: At the rate of \$7 an hour, you can put someone at each dealership

for a half a year's worth of Saturdays, marching back and forth in front of the parking lot with that sign.

TOM: You'll be helping to punish an unscrupulous dealer, and you'll be providing employment for some poor man or woman who needs it.

RAY: Alternatively, you could shop for a Honda Civic Hybrid, assuming your local Honda dealer isn't pulling the same kinds of tricks. Or wait until fall for the Honda Accord Hybrid to come out.

TOM: Or, you can go to www.cartalk.com and use the new car-search feature to look for another Toyota dealer within driving range who will sell you the car at sticker price.

RAY: If you buy it that way, you can still take it back to these other rip-off artists to have the warranty work done — and drink their waiting-room coffee. Good luck, Nurgun.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk section of cars.com on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

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TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week	High	Low	Names	Last	Net Chg	%	YTD	52-week
							Chg	Chg
10,008.17	9,745.41	9,745.41	Dow Jones Industrial	10,008.17	+70.75	+0.7	+5.6	+5.6
3,823.96	3,743.46	3,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,823.96	+20.06	+0.5	+5.6	+5.6
337.79	250.08	250.08	Dow Jones Utilities	337.79	+20.06	+6.0	+8.0	+8.0
7,273.18	6,211.33	6,211.33	NASDAQ Composite	7,273.18	+48.31	+0.7	+6.8	+6.8
1,135.84	1,075.82	1,075.82	NYSE Composite	1,135.84	+11.95	+1.1	+1.2	+1.2
2,191.60	1,750.82	1,750.82	Russell 2000	2,191.60	+11.95	+0.5	+5.2	+5.2
1,217.90	1,064.72	1,064.72	S&P 500	1,217.90	+11.95	+1.0	+1.2	+1.2
666.99	540.29	540.29	MidCap	666.99	+66.25	+9.9	+1.0	+1.0
65.11	515.90	515.90	Russell 2000	65.11	+62.87	+9.7	+1.0	+1.0
12,024.12	10,265.52	10,265.52	DJ Wilshire 2000	12,024.12	+114.28	+0.9	+0.7	+0.7

NYSE AMEX NASDAQ

Most Active (\$1 or more)

Names	Vol	Net Chg	Names	Vol	Net Chg	Names	Vol	Net Chg
Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10
Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10
Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10
Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10
Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10
Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10
Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10
Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10
Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10	Alcatel	1,000,000	+0.10

Key Defensive Stocks

Names	Div	PE	Cost	YTD
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

Key Mutual Funds

Names	Div	PE	Cost	YTD
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Alcatel	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Japanese yen (Jan. 20)	100.00
South Korean won (Jan. 19)	1,010.00
British pound (Jan. 19)	1.394
Dollar buys (Jan. 19)	0.7466
British pound (Jan. 19)	1.32

Commercial rates

British pound	1.32
Swiss franc	1.48
Denmark (Krone)	5.6943
Euro	0.93
Egypt (Pound)	1.31
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7867
Indonesia (Rupiah)	1,368.18
Iceland (Krona)	62.73
Japan (Yen)	100.29
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.26
Norway (Krone)	6.2502
Philippines (Peso)	55.66
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1.36
South Korea (Won)	1,010.70
Switzerland (Franc)	1.325
Thailand (Baht)	38.49
Turkey (New Lira)	1,4045

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany) check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign exchange rates as of 11:00 a.m. local time. British pound, which is represented in dollars and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc

Gold \$423.30

Silver \$6.64

Platinum \$1,225

Discount rate \$2.25

Federal funds market rate 5.25

3-month bill xxx

1-year bill xxx

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Interest Rates

Prime rate 5.25

Discount rate 2.25

Federal funds market rate 5.25

3-month bill xxx

1-year bill xxx

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Small-business tax info

BY CHUCK MYERS

Knight Ridder/Tribune

Sorting a personal income tax return can often prove challenging. So, imagine what it must be like for a small-business owner at tax time. All kinds of tax considerations accompany a running a small business.

But there is some useful information out there. If you own and operate a small business and need some tax insights, here are a few Web sites worth a visit:

■ **Bankrate.com** (www.bankrate.com/bnm/biz-home.asp) — scroll down to "Taxes" to access small-business tax articles.

■ **CompleteTax** (www.completetax.com/Business-Tax-Issues.asp) — provides insights on broad and specific small-business tax issues.

■ **Internal Revenue Service** (www.irs.gov/businesses/small/) — hub for tax information and resources related to small businesses.

■ **TurboTax** (www.turbotax.com/tips-and-resources/business-taxes.html) — covers small-business tax topics.

■ **TaxGaga.com** (www.taxgaga.com/pages/c-business/d-small-business-counting.html) — contains articles, tips and FAQs about small-business taxes.

OPINION

Better guidance needed on immigration

Chicago Tribune

You won't find many travel guides that warn about the dangers of arduous treks through the desert, excessive exhaustion, difficulty walking and reasoning, hallucinations and migraines, not to mention the possibility of smugglers abandoning you in the middle of nowhere, or the local police coming after you.

No, the "Guide for the Mexican Migrant" is not an Arizona tourist book. Published by the Mexican government, it is a compilation of survival tips for Mexicans who are contemplating illegally crossing the border into the United States.

The 32-page pamphlet, with comic-book-like illustrations and a press run of about 1.5 million, has created a furor among American anti-immigration groups and some elected officials, who view it as part of a Mexican strategy to aid and abet illegal immigration.

It's really nothing of the sort. Except for a few questionable tips, the booklet is filled with graphic warnings about the life-threatening risks of entering the U.S. illegally.

But Mexico deserves criticism for its clumsiness and insensitivity to U.S. public opinion and immigration politics. Just as President Bush is laboring to push the immigration-reform wage forward, the pamphlet effectively shoots out one of its tires. It's bad timing and worse public relations.

Those who take the time to read it will find the guide is filled with sensible advice, such as to get a Mexican passport and an

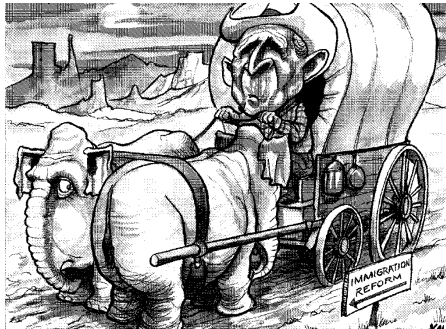
American visa before entering the States. Others have compared it to a risk-reduction strategy. About 400 Mexicans died in 2003 trying to enter the States. The flow of illegal immigrants from Mexico is not about to ebb, so it's compassionate and sensible to use education to reduce the number of deaths.

Indeed, the booklet points out everything that can go wrong for illegal immigrants: smugglers, drownings, death in the desert. It counsels never to use false identification or names, lie to the U.S. border patrol, carry any weapons or try to flee if arrested.

It gets close, though, to offering tips on how to evade U.S. law enforcement — don't give loud parties, the neighbors might call the cops — that may seem like an intrusion in our affairs by a foreign government.

But the guide's most glaring flaw is political. When he began his first term, Bush promised to work with Mexican President Vicente Fox to overhaul American immigration law. That euphoria died after Sept. 11 but has been rekindled by Bush as one of his top priorities as he begins his second term. The centerpiece of his plan is a guest-worker program that would be an alternative to the current illegal immigration debate.

Opposition to such plans is bubbling among members of Congress who sense little public appetite for anything that looks, sounds or smells like amnesty for undocumented immigrants. There are a few Republicans in Congress — Sen. John McCain and Reps. Jeff Flake and Jim Kolbe, all from Arizona — who are pushing for sound immigration



reform, but they are the exception.

At this juncture, Bush could have used an assist, a gesture of cooperation, from the Mexican government. Instead he got a pamphlet that may be well-meaning, but sends all the wrong signals to the American public.

A far more sensible move for Mexico would be to beef up border patrols to bust

the growing network of smugglers who send many illegal immigrants to their deaths.

One of the pamphlet's tips to immigrants is to avoid throwing rocks at U.S. border patrol cars. The Mexican government ought to heed that advice and avoid pelting an American president who is laboring to resolve the plight of undocumented immigrants.

Fifty years ago, Nautilus seized a golden opportunity

BY PETER BROOKES

Imagine the thoughts going through the minds of the captain and crew of the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus, when it put to sea for the very first time 50 years ago this week.



Brookes

Not only did they have to take a new submarine to sea, but also they had to control the splitting of the atom in a small space aboard a submerged submarine in constant danger from the nuclear fission's tremendous heat and life-threatening radiation.

So it's likely that Nautilus' crew didn't give much thought to the fact that they were ushering in the atomic age's next phase — and after naval warfare forever — when they off the lines and flashed the now-historic message, "Underway On Nuclear Power."

Prior to Nautilus, submarines were powered by a dangerous combination of batteries (for submerged operations) and diesel engines (for surface operations and recharging the batteries). Because of noxious fumes, the diesel engines could only run while the subs were on (or near) the sea's surface, making them vulnerable to the enemy.

Naval nuclear power, under the leadership of Adm. Hyman Rickover, ended all that. Nautilus was able to remain submerged for months without surfacing, the only thing limiting Nautilus' undersea endurance was the crew's sanity and food supply.

Over the next several years, Nautilus shattered all submerged speed and distance records. For instance, in 1958, Nautilus departed Pearl Harbor with top-secret orders to conduct "Operation Sunshine."

A few weeks later, with 116 men aboard, Nautilus proclaimed another record when it

broadcast: "Nautilus 90 North." Nautilus had reached the freezing waters of the geographic North Pole.

And overhead satellites could monitor land-based ICBM silos. But now the United States would soon be able to send ballistic-missile nuclear submarines to sea, where they could remain undetected by the enemy for months at a time. This was real strategic deterrence, and no doubt had a hand in preventing a nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union.

But some now say that the submarine is a Cold War relic. The Soviet Union is gone and the "Hunt for Red October" is over. Not so. The Navy's 14 nuclear-powered ballistic-missile submarines, each outfitted with 24 Trident nuclear-tipped ICBMs, continue to provide the United States with our strategic nuclear-strike and deterrent capability.

Meanwhile, nuclear subs provide the stealth and firepower needed in today's 24/7 battlespace. In fact, the Navy's 53 nuclear-powered attack submarines are some of our best spies. Operating close to shore, intelligence gathered by subs can provide timely information about the enemy's intentions.

Nautilus was decommissioned in 1980 after 25 years of service, logging just 500,000 miles. Today, nuclear-powered warships have safely steamed more than 119 million miles — equal to nearly 5,000 trips around the world.

The Navy itself operates 103 nuclear reactors — equaling the number of civilian commercial nuclear reactors in the United States — and its nuclear-safety record has been exemplary. Nuclear power enhances our Navy's ability to sail quickly to trouble spots, and arrive ready for action. The Navy's 82 nuclear-powered warships are the

mainstay of our forward presence and power projection strategy across the globe.

But perhaps most important, Nautilus is a testimony to the American pioneering spirit and boundless technical ingenuity. It should remind Americans of the importance of the endless pursuit of excellence and innovation — not to mention the tremendous professionalism and bravery of U.S. servicemen and women past and present.

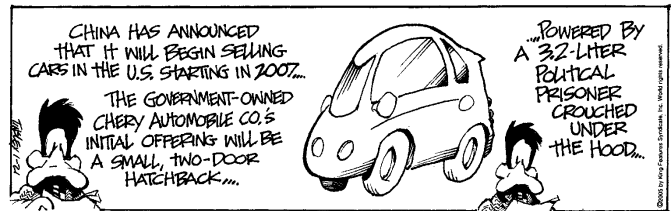
Such service is not without risk. The recent collision of the nuclear attack submarine USS San Francisco with an unplotted undersea mountain in the western Pacific near Guam is a stark reminder of the dangers of the U.S. Navy's "silent service." But submarine duty remains essential to America's security in these dangerous times.

So, to our brave submariners on this important anniversary: Run silent, run deep — and thanks for a job well done.

Peter Brookes is a commander with the Navy Reserve. He is a Naval Academy graduate and a former F-3 pilot. He is also a senior fellow with the Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based think tank.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Lethal punishment

AL BIRMINGHAM — A woman angry with her 12-year-old daughter for having sex forced the girl to drink bleach and sat on her until the child died, a police detective said.

The girl's 9-year-old brother was forced to watch the attack, Detective Warren Cotton testified in a preliminary hearing for Tunisia Archie, 31.

Archie is charged with capital murder in the asphyxiation death of her daughter, Jasmine. If convicted, she could be sentenced to death or life in prison without parole.

Cotton said Archie, who has been jailed without bond since shortly after her daughter's Nov. 26 death, told authorities she was disturbed because "her daughter told her that she was no longer a virgin."

She said she poured bleach into Jasmine's mouth and the child vomited. The mother then sat on the girl until she stopped breathing, Cotton testified.

Egg business cracks

NY NEW YORK — America's sole maker of plastic Easter eggs has cracked under the pressure of competition from Asia.

Bleyer Industries Inc., of Long Island, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, saying it has lost too much business to Chinese rivals. The company sold its plants in Hauppauge, N.Y., and Mount Union, Pa. It is keeping one in Peoria, Ill., and is seeking a partner to operate. A Chapter 11 filing allows a company to put off paying its debts while it tries to come up with a recovery plan.

About 250 million of the colorful plastic toys were made every year at the Peoria plant, and were sold by some of the United States' largest retailers — Wal-Mart, Target, and Toys "R" Us.

Alcohol ban considered

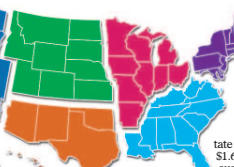
MI EAST LANSING — Michigan State University is considering banning alcohol in most public places on campus. The measure would make exceptions for pre-football tailgating in designated areas. The Board of Trustees will also consider whether to enact permanent tailgating restrictions and specifically outlaw public urination and defecation.

No drowning charges

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — Prosecutors have dropped charges against a mildly retarded teenager once found guilty of drowning a 5-year-old autistic boy, after the state Supreme Court refused to reinstate his manslaughter conviction.

The state has appealed a lower-court ruling that Broward County deputies didn't properly advise Gorman Roberts of his rights during interrogation. Without explanation, the state Supreme Court declined to accept the case on Jan. 7, and the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review another Broward County case on the same issue of Miranda rights.

Roberts, now 20, was convicted in 2002 of pushing 5-year-old Jordan Payne into a Pompano Beach canal, where he drowned. Roberts was sentenced to three years in



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

prison, but had been free on an appellate bond.

Families win final battle

OH CLEVELAND — The state will compensate the families of three Ohio soldiers who died in Iraq after determining they were victims of terrorism and not wartime casualties. Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro said the families will receive money tapped from the state's crime victim compensation program. He cited President Bush's declaration on May 1, 2003, that major combat operations in Iraq had ended.

Accredited profs only

AK FAIRBANKS — The University of Alaska-Fairbanks has adopted a policy to recognize degrees only from accredited universities when it comes to decisions of hiring, promotions, tenure or transferring credit. The change was prompted by controversy surrounding former Faculty Senate president-elect Michael Hannigan, who resigned in October amid allegations that his doctorate came from a "diploma mill."

School on probation

RI PROVIDENCE — Mount Pleasant High School was placed on probation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which found fault with the curriculum, the building's condition and other issues, school officials said. Principal Maureen



Clean sweep

Peter Smith, 2, helps clean up straw on the last day of the 89th annual Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, Pa. Peter was a visitor to the fair, not a contestant.

Crisafulli said work is already being done to correct many of the problems, but some are beyond the school's control.

Record land sales

CO ASPEN — Aspen-area real estate sales last year reached \$1.6 billion, breaking the previous record by \$330 million, according to Land Title Co., which handles property title transfers in the area. The previous record for Pitkin County sales was \$1.27 billion in 2000. Prices also soared, increasing to an average of \$1.263 million in 2004, up from \$1.04 million in 2003.

Brawl investigated

AZ TUCSON — The dining hall at an Arizona prison will stay locked down for a few days while authorities investigate an inmate brawl that injured three corrections officers.

The fight inside Arizona State Prison Complex-Tucson broke out among several prisoners on the eve of the first anniversary of a hostage standoff at another state penitentiary.

More than 40 inmates barricaded themselves in the dining hall after guards tried to break up the dispute, officials said. They surrendered after guards dispersed a chemical similar to tear gas, said Corrections Department spokeswoman Cam Hunter.

Bodies of 2 recovered

CA UPLAND — Divers recovered the bodies of a 35-year-old woman and a boy believed to be her 7-year-old son from a rushing, rain-swollen creek.

Authorities said Sibihla Flores fell into the creek 45 miles northeast of Los Angeles while trying to save her son, Frank Zavala, who slipped while washing his hands during a Martin Luther King Day picnic.

The creek was moving as fast as 40 mph when they disappeared in front of Flores' husband and 15-year-old daughter, authorities said.

An 11-year-old was believed to have drowned a day before in the same creek after he was swept under by currents moving up to 25 mph, authorities said.

The currents carried Marcelo Bautista into the San Antonio Dam. While a body had not been recovered, authorities believe the boy is dead.

Snowplow kills man

MA WEST BRIDGEWATER — A West Bridgewater man was killed after he was struck by a privately owned snowplow, police said.

Daniel Bellamy, 35, was waiting on the side of the road for his ride to work when a plow operated by a driver for CWB Contractors struck him just after 5 a.m.

West Bridgewater Police Sgt. Victor Flaherty said Bellamy was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver initially thought he struck a deer because Bellamy was wearing brown clothing, police said.

Investigators do not believe weather was a factor. No criminal charges have been issued against the driver.



High spirits

Kailey Beckwith, 6, gives a high kick for her coach, Danielle Lauzis, during a junior cheerleading clinic at Mark Morris High School in Longview, Wash.



Balancing act

Casey Kilmartin, 6, tries to balance on a large snowball in East Greenbush, N.Y.



Right on track

Matthew Garr, 5, and his sister, Erin Garr, 2, of Lenexa, Kan., ride a vintage antique amusement park train called the Ottawa You-Pump-It (according to the ride operator) at the Great American Train Show in Kansas City, Mo. Robb Garr, the kids' dad, said Matthew is a "train freak." This is the third show Matthew's attended.



Crabs worth waiting for Bell Buoy Crab Co. workers fill totes on the dock at the Chinook, Wash., plant. The season opening for Dungeness crabs was delayed a month and a half because the crabs were slow to develop. Clockwise from left front to right, workers include Juan Guizar, Matt Culp, James Davis and Dave Caton.



Look who's new at the zoo Tumai, the National Zoo's 4-year-old cheetah, shows off her litter of two male and two female cubs earlier this month. The four cubs, born Nov. 23, make up the first litter of cheetah cubs born at the zoo in Washington in its 115-year history.



Out to graze A horse grazes in a field framed by a barbed wire fence in Larimer County near Loveland, Colo.



Great water for ducks Ducks gather as mist rises from a small pocket of open water on Silver Lake in Virginia, Minn. Discharge from a lake-side power plant keeps a small area of the lake free of ice, providing a place for water fowl to congregate.

Rail tracks damaged

VT BELLOWS FALLS — Freight and passenger train traffic was halted in southern Vermont after a nine-car derailment severely damaged track just north of the Saxtons River. The New England Central Railroad cars were carrying wood products. No one was injured, and the cause wasn't yet known.

Flu shot demand low

GA ATLANTA — About 72,000 additional doses of flu vaccine were distributed this month to private and public health clinics across Georgia, but officials say demand is low. The Division of Public Health is urging people to get shots if they qualify because flu season usually peaks in mid-February. Some clinics and doctors fear they'll have to throw out unused vaccine this spring.

With a song in her heart

IN INDIANAPOLIS — An 82-year-old woman whose lifelong dream was to sing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir has finally added her voice to the group's heavenly crooning.

Virginia Spelbring joined the choir after a group that makes senior citizens' dreams come true helped arrange the grandmother's big singing engagement.

"It was absolutely everything I hoped it would be, and more," she said. "They had three TV stations and the newspaper there. They almost made a star out of me."

Although the choir rarely invites outside singers to join them, leaders of the internationally heralded choir asked Spelbring to sing with their 360-member group after learning about her dream.

Sad end for whales

HI KIHIEI — Maui authorities say a mother pygmy sperm whale that beached herself on Maui was euthanized, while her calf was feared dead. The whales were taken to the Koieie Fishpond at Halepoulo for protection after they were found on the beach at Kealia.

Arrest in smuggling

MI DETROIT — Border agents have arrested a man they say was trying to smuggle 17 Chinese citizens and an Albanian into the United States through an underwater train tunnel that links Windsor, Ontario, to Detroit.

A federal grand jury indicted Wissam Abudayeh, a Palestinian man in his 20s and a legal resident of Canada, on alien smuggling charges.

Abudayeh was to be paid \$400 per person, according to immigration officials.

Authorities say the illegal immigrants boarded a Norfolk Southern engine in Windsor before dawn on Jan. 5 and were caught by U.S. agents during an inspection after the train reached Detroit.

Abudayeh was ordered held without bond until his trial. The 18 immigrants were being held as material witnesses.

Big winner at slots

NV STATELINE — A Pennsylvania man is pretty happy he didn't stop to eat before hitting

the slots here.

Stephen Phares was on a ski vacation when he hit a \$1.3 million jackpot at Harveys Casino and Resort.

Phares, 42, said he wanted to go to dinner but was prodded by a friend to play a progressive Wheel of Fortune MegaJackpot machine.

Now, he said, "I'm very happy we played."

The home mortgage branch manager from Holland, Pa., said he's not sure what he'll do with his winnings.

He said he'd like to invest in Lake Tahoe property. But he also sees his windfall as a chance to help others.

Keeping in touch

MS HERNANDO — Law enforcement agencies in DeSoto County will use federal money to build an electronic link between police departments so officers can share information about arrests, suspects and investigations. The new system can also display where each patrol unit is at any time.

War challenge dismissed

NE LINCOLN — The U.S. Supreme Court dismissed a former Nebraska congressman's lawsuit challenging the Iraq war. Clair Callahan, a Democrat who served in the House from 1965-67, argued that President Bush's military assault on Iraq violated the 1973 War Powers Act. A federal judge ruled earlier that a private citizen has no standing to file such a suit, and that U.S. foreign policy isn't subject to court jurisdiction.

And babies will make 7

MI PETOSKEY — John and Jennifer Dallos have quite a handful with their twins. But things are going to get a lot busier very soon.

Jennifer Dallos is expecting triplets in June.

"We're pretty much shocked," John Dallos said. "We have been up on this cloud, just in a haze. You lay down at night and wonder, 'How are we going to be able to do this?' But you just know it's going to be great."

John and Jennifer Dallos, 31 and 28 respectively, hadn't even planned on having another baby. But they were open to the idea of another child.

"We did have two the first time, so we thought that maybe it wasn't in the cards for us to have more kids," Jennifer Dallos said. "We thought, if it happens, it happens."

Jennifer Dallos did not use fertility drugs.

"When we found out she was pregnant, we thought it would be nice to have another child," her husband said. "We didn't expect to have three."

Gay restriction

AR LITTLE ROCK — Legislators filed a bill to restore a state ban on foster parenting in any household with a gay member.

Sen. Jim Holt, who ran for U.S. Senate on an anti-gay-marriage platform, was a sponsor of the bill to give the state's child welfare board control over "public morality." A recent Pulaski County Circuit Court ruling said the board didn't have that authority.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The Gemini moon rules the early and most productive hours of the day. Do all you can before the moon goes void in the afternoon. Suddenly, a lacy feeling takes hold, and if you can afford to take a nap, this may be the most effective use of a few hours. Aquari-inspired dreams are vividly fantastic. Share subliminal insights with friends.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

JANUARY 21. Your genius expands this year. Dedicate yourself to following your interests through the rest of the winter. You're attractive when engaged in forward motion on a re-winding project. Love bows you over in February. You'll be making a key life-changing decision in April. Travel in June or October. Love signs are Virgo and Aquarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your instinct for making a buck is well honed. Concern yourself with the stuff from which fortunes are made — profits, products and services brought to the marketplace. Pleasant surprises come tonight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Check in often with your mirror. You'll benefit from a face-to-face pep talk between you and you. It's not vain! Make the distinction between self-consciousness and self-awareness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Do whatever it takes to feel vital and a part of things. Others may reveal secrets, and you are proud to keep it on the lowdown. This does take some doing, though, since what you learn is so juicy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You're still searching for that person who is really on your wavelength. A sassy attitude attracts like — so emotel! In the meantime, try and relate to those around you. Old friends offer new opportunities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Shrewd strategies are needed to compete in your current work environment.

Know your opponent. A Nigerian proverb applies: "When the mouse laughs at the cat, there is a hole nearby."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Childish energy runs you — it's kind of charming. You could even develop a crush. Whatever you do, don't tell lies. They will quickly envelop you like a sticky spider web.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If today had a soundtrack, it would include the comical plucking of a banjo. The music gets faster and faster, and you dance frantically in an effort to keep time. Laugh about it, and you're brilliant.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your money sector lights up with killer ideas and lots of motivation. It's like you're in Economics 101 and the rest of the class is still playing with crayons. Act on your inspiration immediately.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Environmental issues shape your progress. Probably your work setup is still not conducive to maximum output. A Virgo or Aquarius can help. Make changes, and production will soar.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Relationship's require so much practical attention that you may channel your inner Tina Turner, crying: "What's love got to do with it?" Remedy the situation by injecting some old-fashioned romance into the equation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Interpersonal skills are hot. Getting people to do the right thing is easy for you — everyone seems to want to please you. You're not being graded in a relationship, but if you were, you'd get an "A."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's appealing to tangle with the authority figure. Flexing your inner teen is thrilling and perhaps foolish, but you can't help it. Should it be your real issue with your father?

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis

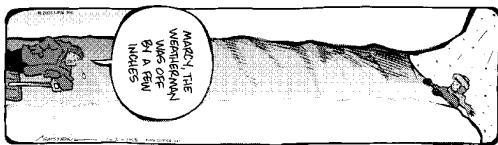


keep time. Laugh about it, and you're brilliant.

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



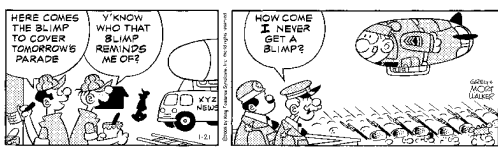
Kathy



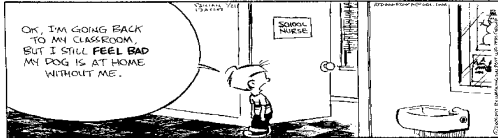
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



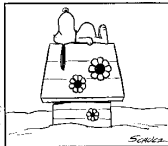
Red and Rover



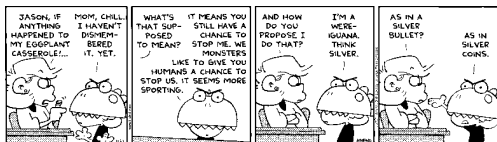
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



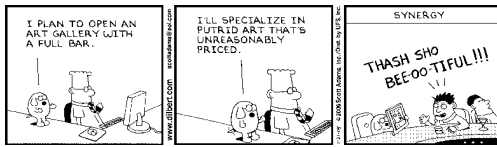
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



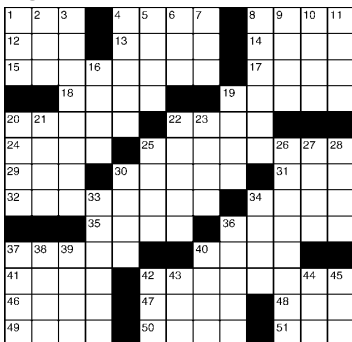
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



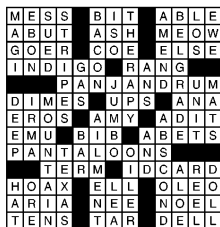
Across

- 1 Upper-crust newbie
- 4 Mexican peninsula, for short
- 8 Binges
- 12 Pub order
- 13 Word often following "once"
- 14 Pennsylvania port
- 15 Muezzins' towers
- 17 Exhaust
- 18 Hoodoo
- 19 Church rendition
- 20 Inaugurate
- 21 Nail technician's need
- 24 Basenurmer's goal
- 25 The small stuff
- 29 Blackbird
- 30 Out of — (grouchy)

Down

- 1 TVA structure
- 2 Inventor Whitney
- 3 Harrison or Netanyahu
- 4 Beyond well-done
- 5 Pinnacle
- 6 Mark in the margin
- 7 Reply (Abbr.)
- 8 Socialites' group
- 9 Pavarotti presentation
- 10 "—, Interrupted"
- 11 Appear
- 16 Yorkshire river
- 19 Asset
- 20 Counterfeit
- 21 Writer Morrison
- 22 Canned
- 23 Worldwide (Abbr.)
- 25 Early period
- 26 Unknowing
- 27 Rich Little, e.g.
- 28 Uncomplicated
- 30 Command to Rover
- 33 Beowulf's home
- 34 Leave out
- 36 Coral formation
- 37 Church service
- 38 Last writeup
- 39 Antitoxins
- 40 Frosty's DNA?
- 42 What the banker in "Penny Lane" never wears
- 43 — Jima
- 44 Spoonbender
- 45 Geller
- 45 Snoop Dogg's genre

Answer to Previous Puzzle



I-21

CRYPTOQUIP

L N Y B G L A Q K Z H H O A L
K L Y M A P B A O W O P N O M W
J D M W L Z M O P D M W G O I G O K Q
I D Z W Y P M O A W G O W Z A O

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I PURCHASED A COW AT MARKET, I SUPPOSE I WOULD MILK IT FOR ALL IT'S WORTH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals E

Women: Heed these warning signs

Dear Abby: My brother-in-law, "Fred," is on his fifth marriage. We know it won't be his last. Every time he is courting his next unsuspecting wife, my husband and I wish we could tell his new fiancée what we know about Fred, but of course, we can't. And this never asks.

The questions we wish these nice women would ask: (1) Ask how many times he has been married. Multiple previous marriages are a big red flag. Don't think you are different from the others. You're not.

(2) If you wonder how he affords the expensive wines, the five-star restaurants and the trips to Europe on the salary that someone in his line of work earns—the answer is he can't afford it.

(3) If he wants to buy a house with you and asks you to buy it

in your name alone, then add his name after you obtain a loan, run for the nearest exit. His credit is bad.

(4) "Went to" a college and "graduated from" a college are two different things. What a shame that someone would even lie about that.

(5) If he hasn't been able to hold a job because he was "smarter than" every boss he ever had, don't count on having his income in your budget.

(6) Are you much younger than he is? Does he try to control your every move? (He likes the young ones because he can no longer fool the older, wiser ladies.)

(7) Have you ever wondered why nothing is his fault? The divorces? The bankruptcies? Think again!

Dear Abby



longer fool the older, wiser ladies.)

Brother-in-law must pitch in at home

Dear Annie: My brother-in-law, "Matt," moved in with us a year ago, after splitting with his wife. Since then, his divorce has been finalized and he has his two kids here every other weekend. My house is not big, and although it gets quite crowded during these weekends, we manage. Matt has been a big help watching our children on the nights that my husband and I work. In exchange, we do not charge him rent or any part of the utility bills, and Matt gives us some money to cover his grocery bills.

Here is what's getting to me. Matt seems to have a problem putting silverware in the dishwasher. He doesn't pick up anything off the floor that doesn't belong to him. Most nights when I come home from work, my living room is trashed. Matt's room is a mess, and all he does is sit at the computer playing games or watch TV.

What can I do without offending him?

—The Sister-in-Law

Annie's Mailbox



Dear Sister-in-Law: You are doing Matt a tremendous favor by allowing him to live in your home, rent-free. Don't worry about offending him. Tell Matt, with a smile, that he now is a full-fledged member of your immediate family and you expect him to do his share around the house. Make a list of chores for everyone, and insist that each person follow it. Remind them when necessary.

Dear Annie: My husband and I struggled for several years while trying to conceive a child. After many visits to fertility specialists, we decided to adopt a wonderful daughter. Shortly after she became part of our family, I miraculously became pregnant. Our son was born a year later, and another daughter three years after that. We feel blessed.

Our oldest daughter has different coloring than the rest of our family. Perfect strangers are rude

enough to comment on this fact. One woman said, "That one is definitely the mailman's child." Today, an elderly man asked my daughter, now 6, "What happened to your hair?"

Although we have always talked openly about her adoption, I'm not sure my daughter has truly grasped the meaning of all these comments.

I thought printing this in your column may help people realize such comments are hurtful to children who already may feel different.

—Loving Mom in Connecticut

Dear Mom: Some people don't put their brains into gear before inserting their foot in their mouths, but they mean no harm. The correct response to such rude, unfeeling questions is, "Thank you. We think she's simply beautiful." Then smile and walk away.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Margy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creator Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WEFER

YEVAH

DYSTUR

YIFFEG

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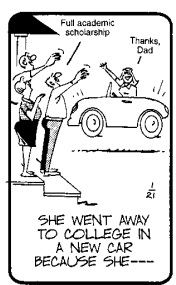
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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the phrase answer as suggested by the above cartoon.

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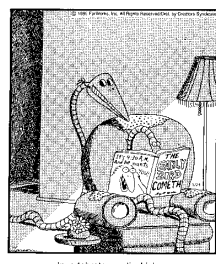


Dennis the Menace



Gary Larson

The Far Side

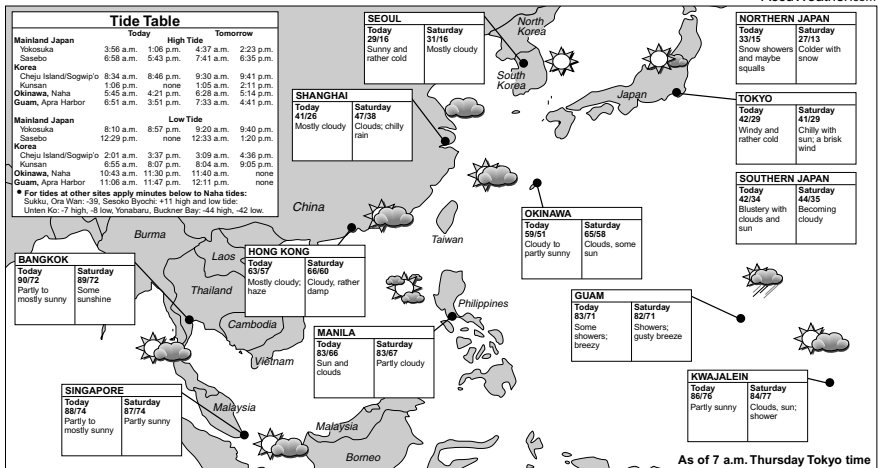


Non Sequitur



The Pacific Forecast

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AccuWeather.com



As of 7 a.m. Thursday Tokyo time

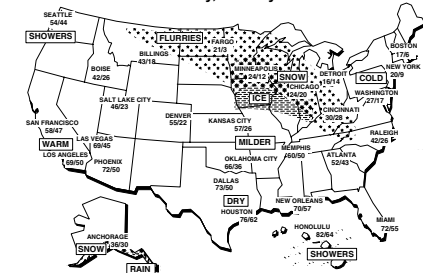
Extended Forecasts

TOKYO Sunday: Snow, high 41, low 32. Monday: Mostly sunny, high 45, low 38.	KADENA Sunday: Partly sunny, high 72, low 61. Monday: Partly sunny, high 71, low 63.	SEOUL Sunday: Partly sunny, high 33, low 24. Monday: Snow flurries, high 38, low 17.	MANILA Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 64, low 68. Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 84, low 69.	HAGATNA Sunday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 73. Monday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 72.
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Wednesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	60/36	Los Angeles	85/54
Amarillo	65/36	Little Rock	59/38
Anchorage	13/8	Louisville	43/29
Ashville	39/25	Miami	73/51
Baltimore	27/21	Milwaukee	32/15
Birmingham	48/33	Nashville	50/32
Bismarck	31/22	New York	26/22
Boise	47/32	Omaha	42/31
Boston	25/21	Orlando	66/44
Brownsville	76/58	Philadelphia	28/21
Buffalo	28/14	Phoenix	80/56
Burlington	19/13	Pittsburgh	28/21
Charleston, SC	47/30	Pittsburgh, OR	62/45
Charlotte	40/27	Portland, ME	21/16
Cleveland	34/17	Salt Lake City	50/31
Columbus, OH	33/18	St. Louis	44/30
Duluth	14/1	San Antonio	65/49
El Paso	65/39	San Diego	85/56
Hartford	19/15	San Juan	81/70
Helena	54/33	Tampa	64/46
Indianapolis	39/22	Tulsa	59/39
Jacksonville	59/34	Washington	30/23
Kansas City	46/33	Wichita	60/39

Friday, January 21



U.S. Extended Forecast

Bitterly cold air will return to the Northeast on Friday. Temperatures will struggle to reach the upper teens across much of the region. Snow showers will affect some locations around the Great Lakes. Snow will spread into the Upper Midwest and northern Plains. Dry weather is expected across the Southeast and southern Plains. Rain and snow showers will be found across the northern Rockies. Warm temperatures will continue across the Southwest and Southern California. A major storm will take shape across the Ohio Valley over the weekend. This storm will head eastward into the mid-Atlantic and strengthen as it does so. Snow will affect much of the region, especially on Sunday.

Friday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	90/72	Iwakuni	42/32
Beijing	37/18	Kadena AB	59/51
Camp Casey	31/16	Kansan AB	34/24
Christchurch	72/55	Kwajalein	86/76
Diego Garcia	87/77	Manila	86/76
Hagatna	83/77	Marina AB	33/16
Hanoi	69/58	Okinawa	30/16
Hong Kong	63/51	Perth	89/68
Honolulu	82/64	Pusan	38/30

Friday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	86/72	Budapest	40/24	Kabul	36/10	Nairobi	84/55
Athens	56/44	Buenos Aires	86/68	Kiev	26/18	New Delhi	61/33
Auckland	70/57	Cairo	67/42	Kuwait	70/46	Oslo	29/17
Baghdad	66/38	Cancun	76/64	London	42/36	Paris	41/30
Barbados	86/70	Capetown	77/58	Madrid	56/42	Rio de Janeiro	84/70
Barcelona	60/45	Geneva	41/31	Mexico City	68/45	Rome	59/42
Berlin	39/26	Istanbul	33/39	Montreal	21/9	St. Petersburg	30/19
Bermuda	61/50	Jerusalem	59/48	Mogadishu	92/74	Stockholm	34/20
Brussels	39/25	Johannesburg	72/57	Moscow	30/24	Warsaw	33/19



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SCOREBOARD, FROM PAGE 24

College hockey

Tuesday's scores

EAST
 Canisius 5, Mercyhurst 2
 Connecticut 5, Sacred Heart 3
 Elmira 5, Elmira 1
 Hobart 4, Buffalo St. 2
 New England 5, Maine-Boston 2
 Mass-Lowell 6, Brown 0
 New England 5, Brown 0
 Nichols 4, Framingham St. 3
 Oswego St. 4, Hamilton 0
 Salve Regina 6, Assumption 5, OT
 UConn 1, Cortland St. 1, tie
 Williams 6, Middlebury 2

MIDWEST

Michigan Tech 6, Notre Dame 2

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
ANAHUENES—Agreed to terms with Jose Molina, RHP Scott Shields and RHP Jarrod Washburn on one-year contracts.
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Agreed to terms with 2B Jerry Hairston Jr., RHP Rodrigo Lopez, LHP R. Ryan and OF Luis Matos on one-year contracts, and RHP Jay Witasick, 2B Lopez Wilson, 2B Chris Stynes, OF Mike Cuddings and C Keith McDonald on minor league contracts.
BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with RHP Brandon Arroyo and 2B Mark Belhorne on one-year contracts.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Agreed to terms with RHP Luis Vizcaino on a one-year contract.
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Agreed to terms with INF Alex Cora on a two-year contract and RHP David Hale on a one-year contract.
DENVER COLORED—Agreed to terms with RHP Octavio Dotel and OF Bobby Kielty on one-year contracts.
SEATTLE MARINERS—Agreed to terms with LHP Ron Villone on a two-year contract.
TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Agreed to terms with C Kevin Call, LHP Dan Fultner and RHP John Webb on one-year contracts. Designated C Pete Latorf for assignment.
TEXAS RANGERS—Agreed to terms with OF Gary Matthews Jr. on a one-year contract.
National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Agreed to terms with RHP Brandon Lyon on a one-year contract.
CHICAGO CUBS—Agreed to terms with C Michael Barrett on a three-year contract, RHP Kyle Farnsworth and OF Corey Patterson on one-year contracts, and RHP Scott Williamson on a minor league contract.
COLORADO ROCKIES—Agreed to terms with RHP Jason Jennings on a two-year contract and LHP Joe Kennedy on a one-year contract.
FLORIDA MARLINS—Agreed to terms with RHP Josh Beckett on a one-year contract.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Eric Gagne on a two-year contract.

NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with RHP Roberto Hernandez on a minor league contract.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Agreed to terms with RHP Pedro Rodriguez, SS Jimmy Rollins and RHP Vicente Padilla on one-year contracts.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Agreed to terms with RHP Joel Pinyan and OF Craig Wilson on one-year contracts.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Agreed to terms with LHP Rick Ankiel on a one-year contract.
SAN DIEGO PADRES—Agreed to terms with 3B Tim Lincecum on a one-year contract.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Agreed to terms with OF Yovani Ballesteros on a one-year contract.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Agreed to terms with RHP Tomo Ohka on a one-year contract.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Placed G Maurice Wagner on the injured list. Activated C Oshane Duggins from the injured list.
HOUSTON ROCKETS—Placed F Maurice Taylor on the injured list. Activated F Clarence Weatherspoon from the injured list.
ORLANDO MAGIC—Placed C Mario Kanunon on the injured list. Activated C Andrew DeClerf from the injured list.
National Football League
NY—Named Frank Supovitz senior vice president of events.
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Signed TE Aaron Galloway and WR Luke Powell.
BALTIMORE RAVENS—Signed RB James H. Johnson as offensive coordinator, RB Neel Patel as defensive coordinator, and RB Ryan Dwyer as defensive coordinator.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Re-signed RB Keyshawn Johnson to the practice squad. Released TE Mike Sokoloff from the practice squad.
COLLEGE
BINGHAMTON—Named Tony Robb wrestling coach.
ARIZONA STATE—Announced sophomore men's basketball F Jie Nwankwo transferred from Purdue.
DRAKE—Named Amy Farber-Kowalski women's volleyball coach.
DUKE—Named Marty Riggins first base coach and outfielder coach. Thomas Coffman director of athletic development, and Don Fowler associate director of athletic development.
EASTERN WASHINGTON—Agreed to terms with Paul Wuff, football coach, on a four-year contract.
FORDHAM—Announced the retirement of Dan Gallagher, baseball coach. Named Nick Restano interim baseball coach.
MISSOURI—Announced DJ C. Mosley will play for his senior season and make himself eligible for the NFL draft.
MURDERBURN—Named Rob Shuttleman men's golf coach.
NORFOLK STATE—Named Lee Madsen men's assistant volleyball coach.
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN—Named Kevin Marsh men's and women's golf coach.
OREGON—Named Gary Cronin offensive coordinator.
SOUTH CAROLINA—Announced the retirement of Mike McGee, athletic director, effective June 30.
SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA—Named Dennis Roland football coach.
WINSTON-SALEM—Named Aaron Shephardson assistant volleyball coach.

Hopkins to defeat NBC title

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Undisputed middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins will defend his WBC title against Howard Eastman on Feb. 19 at Staples Center.

The once-beaten Eastman, who was born in Guyana and now lives in England, is the WBC's second-ranked contender behind Felix Trinidad.

Hopkins, who turned 40 on Saturday, is coming off a ninth-round knockout of Oscar De La Hoya on Sept. 18 in Las Vegas, Hopkins' 19th successful title defense.

Hopkins, from Philadelphia, is 45-2-1 with 32 knockouts. He hasn't lost in more than a decade, since Roy Jones took an unanimous decision in 1993.

The 34-year-old Eastman is 40-1 and has 34 knockouts. His only loss was a 12-round majority decision to William Joppy for the vacant WBA middleweight crown on Nov. 17, 2001 in Las Vegas.

Ex-Raider Robbins charged with attempted murder

MIAMI — Former Oakland Raiders center Barret Robbins was charged Wednesday with three counts of attempted felony murder, less than a week after being shot during a furious struggle with three police officers investigating a burglary call.

Robbins, a former Pro Bowler, was wounded Saturday night after Miami Beach police found him inside a woman's restroom in a building housing a pub, a gym and a jewelry store. The pub owner called police after Robbins forced his way inside the building and refused to leave, a police report said.

Robbins, 31, of Englewood, Colo., growled, snarled and "was heard laughing throughout the attack," the report said.

A charge of attempted felony murder can be filed when someone is injured during a felony. It carries a possible 30-year prison sentence. The three counts he faces cover the three officers involved in his arrest, said Ed Griffith, spokesman for the Miami-Dade County state attorney's office.

Robbins, who suffers from bipolar disorder and alcoholism, also was charged with two felony counts of attempting to deprive an officer of his weapon, two felony counts of resisting an officer with violence and misdemeanor trespassing. The felony counts carry possible five-year sentences.

Arresting was set for Feb. 9. Robbins was critically injured and remains in a Miami hospital Jan. unit, Griffith said.

Nuggets' hospital has minimal swelling in ankle

DENVER — Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony had full range of motion and minimal swelling in his right ankle Wednesday after suffering a sprain one night earlier.

Team doctors decided X-rays weren't necessary, Nuggets spokesman Eric Sebastian said. Anthony was questionable for Friday's home game against Memphis.

He sprained the ankle in the fourth quarter of Tuesday night's 116-110 overtime win in Seattle. Anthony landed on the foot of SuperSonics' Nick Collison.

Sports briefs

Rockets sign Rod Strickland, release Knight

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets signed veteran point guard Rod Strickland on Wednesday and waived Brandon Knight.

A 17-year-NBA journeyman, Strickland was a free agent and didn't play on a team at the start of this season. He spent much of last year with Orlando before forcing his release in March and played the final month of the season with Toronto.

Strickland, 38, ranks seventh in NBA history with 7,948 assists, second among active players behind Boston's Gary Payton, and 19th with 1,613 steals.

Knight, a rookie, made one scoreless appearance with the Rockets after signing a 10-day contract on Sunday.

Jury awards \$60M to family of girl paralyzed by drunken football fan

HACKENSACK, N.J. — A jury awarded \$60 million Tuesday to the family of a girl paralyzed in a car wreck caused by a drunken football fan.

Ronald and Fariza Verri were headed home from a pumpkin-picking trip in 1999 with their 2-year-old daughter, Antonia, when their car was hit by a truck driven by Daniel Lanzaro, 34. Antonia was paralyzed from the neck down.

Lanzaro, whose blood-alcohol level was more than twice the legal limit, is serving a five-year prison term for vehicular assault.

The family sued Aramark, the Giants Stadium concessionaire, claiming vendors sold beers to Lanzaro even though he was clearly drunk and that Aramark fostered an atmosphere in which intoxicated patrons were free to drink.

The NFL forbids beer sales after the fourth quarter, the Giants shut down beer vendors after half-time. The stadium also mandates that fans can only buy two beers at a time by a rule Lanzaro side-stepped by buying the vendor \$10, allowing him to buy six beers.

Big Ten acknowledges officiating error

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — The Big Ten has admitted an officiating error that could have cost Indiana a game it won in double overtime at Purdue last weekend.

The game saw Carl Landry score and was fouled with less than a second left in the first overtime on Saturday, but he then missed a free throw that would have won the game for the Boilermakers.

Instead, the score remained tied and the Hoosiers won 75-73 after the second OT period.

The Big Ten said Tuesday the officials incorrectly interpreted rules regarding a basket made at or near the expiration of the game clock.

According to NCAA rules, the field goal should not have counted and Landry should have been awarded two free throws, the Big Ten said.

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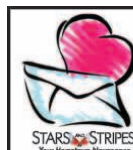
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Jordan back in Atlanta

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Brian Jordan is coming back to the Atlanta Braves.

MLB briefs

The team agreed Wednesday to a contract with the outfielder, who played with the Braves from 1999-01.

Jordan, 37, played last season with the Texas Rangers, hitting just .222 with three homers and 23 RBIs in 61 games. Plagued by injuries, he has played just 127 games the past two seasons.

The Braves were looking to bolster their depth on the outfield after losing free agent J.D. Drew and trading Eli Marrero and Charles Thomas. Last week, Atlanta signed Raul Mondesi, who said he'd been promised the chance to start in right field.

Jordan will likely be given a chance to contend for the left-field job.

Loaiza, Osuma agree to deals with Nationals

WASHINGTON — Free agent pitcher Esteban Loaiza joined the Washington Nationals on Wednesday, agreeing to a \$2.9 million, one-year deal.

The Nationals also added a reliever, agreeing to a one-year contract with Antonio Osuma.

Loaiza went 21-10 with a 2.90 ERA and a league-leading 207 strikeouts for the Chicago White Sox in 2003, was the AL starter in the All-Star Game and finished second in Cy Young

Award voting behind Toronto's Roy Halladay.

He struggled with his velocity last year, going 9-5 with a 4.86 ERA for the White Sox, and then was traded to the New York Yankees and went 1-2 with an 8.50 ERA in 10 regular-season games. He quickly lost his spot in the starting rotation.

Loaiza is 100-89 with a 4.70 ERA over 10 seasons with Pittsburgh, Texas, Toronto, Chicago and New York. He made \$4.0 million last year.

Loaiza joins a starting rotation that includes Liván Hernández, Tomo Ohka and Tony Armas Jr.

Osuma is 36-29 with 21 saves and a 3.50 ERA over 10 seasons with Los Angeles, the Chicago White Sox, New York Yankees and San Diego.

Bottalico, Kieselbach reach agreements with Brewers

MILWAUKEE — Free-agent reliever Ricky Bottalico agreed Wednesday to an \$800,000, one-year contract with the Milwaukee Brewers, who also settled their arbitration case with pitcher Brooks Kieschnick by agreeing to a one-year deal.

Seale close to rejoining M's

SEATTLE — The Mariners are close to a deal that would bring Aaron Seale back to Seattle.

The 34-year-old right-hander, who spent the 2000 and 2001 seasons with the Mariners, is on track to agree to a minor league contract by the end of the week. Seale went 9-5 with a 5.05 ERA last season with Anaheim.

Secret session restarts labor talks

By IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

The bid to jump-start NHL labor negotiations appears to have been a success.

Union president Trevor Linden and NHL board of directors chairman Harley Hotchkiss spoke Wednesday at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, and the sides are planning another meeting in an effort to save the season.

The session lasted about five hours, including several breaks so each three-man negotiating group could huddle. It was just the third time the league and its players have had face-to-face talks in the four months since the lockout was imposed Sept. 15.

"We engaged in good dialogue today and will continue our discussions in the near future," Linden said. "We will not make any further comment at this time."

More than half of the regular season — 662 of 1,230 games through Wednesday — has been wiped out so far, plus the All-Star Game.

If Wednesday's meeting does represent a key step forward in the negotiations, it might be worth noting who was not present: NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and union chief Bob Goodenow.

Linden reached out to the owners and invited Hotchkiss to talk.

The center for the Vancouver Canucks hoped that by holding talks without the two leaders, some of the acrimony could be re-

Hoping for a resolution

A group of representatives from management and the players' union met Wednesday with hopes of finding a solution to end the 4-month-old NHL lockout.

NHL lockout log through Wednesday, Jan. 19

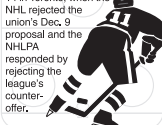
Days of lockout: 126

Days of season missed: 99

Games lost Wednesday: 7

Games missed: 662 regular-season games plus the 2005 All-Star Game.

Negotiations: A meeting between both sides promise to meet again. It was the first meeting since Dec. 14 in Toronto, when the NHL, rejected the union's Dec. 9 proposal and the NHLPA responded by rejecting the league's counter-offer.



representing the NHL, Linden, NHLPA senior director Ted Saskin, and outside counsel John McCambridge were there for the players.

Linden didn't have a new proposal, and he wasn't looking for attention. Indeed, it wasn't until late Tuesday that word filtered out where the meeting would be.

"The parties had a good, candid dialogue, and we intend to talk again," Daily said. "Out of respect for the process, we have no further comment at this time."

These were the first talks since Dec. 14. That was when the sides broke three months of silence by sitting down for the second time in six days, but any optimism was lost quickly.

The players presented a proposal that offered an immediate 24 percent rollback on all existing contracts, but owners rejected the plan, saying it didn't provide cost certainty.

The NHL presented a counterproposal, which was turned down as soon as the players' association saw that the offer included a salary cap.

Since then, other than rhetoric, there had been silence.

If the next round of talks don't move the sides to a Settlement, the season probably will be lost. That would mean the Stanley Cup wouldn't be awarded for the first time since 1919, when a flu epidemic canceled the final series between Seattle and Montreal.

No major North American sports league has missed an entire season because of a labor dispute.

Major League Baseball's system of clerks and balances

Arbitration has been part of baseball for more than 30 years, or roughly as long as Roger Clemens has been pitching, and Clemens has, without laughing, asked arbitrators to give him \$22 million to pitch some more.

If Clemens pitched at Coors Field two times a year, I say do it, otherwise every dollar spent on the old relic is tribute and not salary, and the Astros are willing to give him \$13.5 million.

This would still be an arbitration record, the highest award so far being \$8.2 million to Andrew Jones of Atlanta, and some of that, no doubt, for spelling lessons. Derek Jeter did ask for \$18.5 before settling with the Yankees.

These numbers boggle the mind more than usual, and that is because the process of arbitration is still not easy to explain.

But I shall give it a try. It works this way:

Baseball players don't have to ask the owner of the team for a raise. They can ask detached clerks. One considers the wisdom of the arrangement.

The last time I asked a disinterested clerk for anything — a new driver's license — I got mail for the next two months trying to sell me plastic seat covers.

The driver's license came much later under separate cover.

That has been my experience with the machinery of arbitration, and baseball players have my sympathy. I imagine the real reason so many of them never actual-

Bernie Lincione

ly sit down with an arbitrator is because cause has no idea how to fit seat covers on an Escalade.

If 89 players are filed for arbitration this offseason, and 40 or so are likely to go through the entire process, preferring the modern method of settling contract disputes to the old way of getting baseball dignity for more than 100 years.

This is how arbitration is supposed to keep order in baseball: A player takes all of his statistics before strangers who judge whether they are worth what the player thinks they are.

An owner takes his statistics before strangers who are surprised to learn that the owner is talking about the same player who was in just a few minutes before.

Batters show things like runs batted in, hits and runs. Owners show times grounded into double plays, strikeouts and times picked off first base.

Pitchers show victories, ERA and strikeouts. Owners show winning runs allowed, losses and bases on balls.

Arbitrators then figure out who is the poorer liar and make a decision.

Players and owners used to sort this stuff out between themselves.

The owner would sip his mint julep and try not to look at his watch while the player made his case, and then the owner would decide how much money the player would get.

Long arguments and holdouts would result, and the best players would generally get half of what they asked for, while mediocre players would be traded to Cleveland.

Before arbitration became an annual winter adventure, the only people who knew what ballplayers earned were sportsmen, who had heard the figures from the barber of a front-office secretary's husband.

This is known, in the business,

as a reliable source. Nobody ever thought of coming right out and asking Todd Helton how much money he made. Only golfers, auto racers and jockeys tell us that, and we all know what kind of athletes they are.

The only hitch in all of this is that the arbitrators can decide on only one salary figure, either the player's or the owner's. If a has been determined from a reliable source, Shawn Chacon wants \$4.1 million and the Rockies only offer \$1.9 million, there can be no compromise at \$3 million.

The mere threat of objective judges deciding on the higher figure tends to cause unreasonable panic in front offices and baseless

arrogance in the clubhouse.

What happens is players ask for more money than they think they can get and the owners counter with more money than they think they should pay. And the ultimate irony is that usually the whole thing is settled without an arbitrator.

The player makes so much money he doesn't have to play as hard as he did when he was merely rich and not filthy rich, the owner cries poverty and raises ticket prices, which was always looked for as a ploy to do anything, and everybody blames somebody else.

Bernie Lincione is a columnist for the Rocky Mountain News.

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St. John's defeats No. 21 Pitt

BY JIM O'CONNELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The list of why St. John's 65-62 victory over No. 21 Pittsburgh on Tuesday night was a long one.

From it being the first Big East win for first-year coach Norm Roberts to it snapping a three-game losing streak of which the past two were close ones. From it letting the Red Storm better last season's win total to it being one in which they lost a big lead but found a way to pull it out in the final 25 seconds.

From the postgame celebration on the court to the giddiness in the locker room later, it was big.

"It was a terrific basketball game and it was one I think our players really deserved to win based on what they did the last two weeks," Roberts said. "We've been coming close but coming up short. Tonight, for Pittsburgh, the ball bounced off the rim instead of going in. We never gave up even when things didn't go right for us."

David Hill scored 26 points, including three free throws in the final 25 seconds, for St. John's, which lost close road games to West Virginia and Notre Dame to end its losing streak of three games.

Hill, who had career highs of 29 and 30 points in his past two games, only had three over the final 15 minutes but they were enough to give the Red Storm (7-7, 1-3 Big East) their second win this season on a ranked team.

The last game before the losing streak started was a 63-65 victory over then-No. 17 North Carolina State, also at Madison Square Garden.

In those other games we stayed close, but we knew we had the talent," said the sophomore who is leading the Big East in scoring with a 20.5 average. "We showed everybody we can play with anybody."

Carl Krauser had 22 points, seven assists and eight turnovers for the Panthers (12-3, 3-2), who had won two in a row after dropping two straight at home.

"We put ourselves in a hole and were able to climb it out," said Jamie Dixon, who led the Panthers to the Big East title last season as a rookie coach. "We are obviously not where we want to be as far as how we are playing."

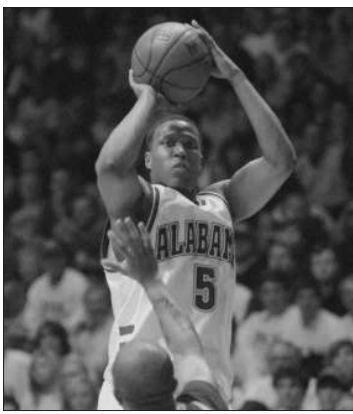
St. John's, which has won eight of its past 10 against Pittsburgh, opened the second half with a 16-6 run to take a 52-41 lead with 11:10 to play.

That's when the Red Storm started to struggle against Pittsburgh's 2-3 zone. The Red Storm went 18 without a field goal and the Panthers went on a 15-2 run to take a 56-54 lead with 6:08 left.

Lamont Hamilton broke the field goal drought with 5:15 to play, tying it at 56.

"Give them credit. They did a great job with the zone making it tough for our big guys to get it out and then our guards got a little bit frustrated trying to make something happen," Roberts said.

"We stayed strong. When we had to get stops we got stops."



Alabama guard Earnest Shelton scored a career-high 34 points in the Crimson Tide's 98-49 victory over Mississippi State on Tuesday night.

No. 22 Alabama routs No. 17 Mississippi St.

The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Earnest Shelton scored a career-high 34 points and Alabama held Mississippi State without a field goal for nearly 15 minutes of the first half in a 98-49 victory Tuesday night.

The No. 22 Crimson Tide (14-3, 3-1 Southeastern Conference) allowed just three field goals in the first half for a 49-18 lead, shutting down the Bulldogs' backcourt and denying star Lawrence Roberts uncontested shots at the basket.

It didn't get any better after that for No. 17 Mississippi State (15-4, 3-2), which matched its second-worst loss, a 113-64 defeat at Louisville on Dec. 8, 1954. The game was supposed to be a battle for early control of the SEC West, but it ended up looking more like a nonconference mismatch.

The Bulldogs trailed 9-8 early but went 14-33 without a field goal before Roberts banked one in with 1:04 left in the first half. They shot 5-0-20 in the half. Mississippi State, which fell to 1-2 since second-leading scorer Winsome Frazier was lost to a broken foot, has lost two straight road games since winning 16 in a row.

Without him, the Bulldogs had no answer for Shelton, Kennedy Winston (24 points) or Ronald Steele (10 assists).

With 23 points, Shelton outscored the Bulldogs by himself in their lowest-scoring first half of the season.

He scored 14 consecutive points during one stretch, including four of his five first-half three-pointers. The half ended fitfully, with Winston draining a 26-footer at the buzzer after point guard Gary Evins picked up his third foul on a charge.

Mississippi State couldn't even do what it normally does better than anybody in the league: rebound and defend against opposi-

Men's Top 25 Roundup

ing shooters. Alabama hit 57 percent of its shots and dominated the boards 38-25.

Shelton made 13 of 22 shots, only four fewer than the Bulldogs.

Winston made four of six three-pointers while Chuck Davis had 14 points and helped contain Roberts inside. Steele had half of Alabama's 20 assists and the Tide hit 12 of 25 three-pointers.

No. 18 Oklahoma 70, Texas A&M 54: At College Station, Texas, Drew Lavender scored a season-high 23 points and the Sooners snapped the Aggies' 11-game home winning streak.

The Sooners (14-2, 3-0 Big 12) have won eight straight and 12 of 13.

Lawrence McKenzie sparked Oklahoma's game-clinical 13-1 run with consecutive threes and Lavender finished it by scoring seven straight points to help seal the victory.

Antoine Wright led the Aggies (12-3, 1-3) with 24 points on 8-for-12 shooting, and was the only A&M player to score in double figures.

No. 19 Michigan St. 71, Purdue 64: At East Lansing, Mich., Maurice Acker scored 19 of his 22 points in the second half to help the Spartans get past the Boilermakers.

The Spartans (11-3, 3-1 Big Ten) looked sluggish early, still reeling from their collapse at Wisconsin on Sunday, before riding Acker's sharp shooting late in the game.

Carl Landry scored a career-high 31 points for Purdue (4-11, 0-5) and David Teague had 13. The Boilermakers are 0-5 in the Big Ten for the first time since the 1962-63 season.

Syracuse-Georgetown rivalry shows new life

No. 7 Orange prevail in overtime

BY JOHN KEKIS
The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The rivalry between Georgetown and Syracuse used to be one of the fiercest in college basketball.

The Hoyas had the volatile John Thompson provoking the sidelines, while Syracuse's Jim Boeheim ranted and raved every time the teams played. With John Thompson III coaching the Hoyas now and Boeheim still around, that rivalry might just be rekindled if Tuesday night's game is any indication of what lies ahead.

Given a second chance by Brandon Bowman's big feat, the No. 7 Orange squeezed out a 78-73 victory over the Hoyas in overtime Tuesday night.

"They go out and fight hard every time. It's a tradition," said senior forward Hakim Warrick, who had 25 points and 11 rebounds to lead Syracuse (18-1, 5-0 Big East).

Last year, Syracuse won 57-54 at Georgetown on Gerry McNamara's three-pointer from the top of the key at the final buzzer. That simply answered how point in a bad season. The Hoyas won only 13 games under head coach Craig Esherick, their fewest wins since 1973-74. John Thompson, second year.

Worse still, Georgetown won only four league games, a record-low for the program, and was picked to finish at the bottom of the Big East this season.

But Thompson, whose famous father retired in 1999 after 27 years, was hired in April, and the results have been impressive.

With three freshmen starters, the Hoyas (11-5, 3-2) have won at Pittsburgh and Rutgers, threatened at Connecticut before falling 66-59, and were coming off a last-second victory at Villanova.

Bowman nearly made Syracuse the next victim in a season's game that was tied seven times and had 10 lead changes.

After a free throw by Warrick gave Syracuse a 67-65 lead with 71 seconds left in regulation, Bowman was fouled by Craig Forth but missed the front end of a 1-and-1. McNamara then attempted a three-pointer, but the shot

rattled in and out with 36 seconds to go, giving the Hoyas one last shot.

They worked the ball to Bowman at the top of the key, and he hit a jumper with 2.3 seconds left. But his size-17 feet were barely on the three-point line and he left the scored tied at 67, forcing overtime.

"I saw an opportunity and knocked it down," said Bowman, who scored 19 points before fouling out in the final seconds. "I thought it was a three, but I guess my shoes are too big. I wish I was a size 14."

It was so close, the officials looked at the replay before ruling it a two-point shot.

"We wanted to put the ball in his [Bowman's] hands and let him decide," Thompson said. "I thought he was behind the line, but the replay showed he wasn't. Obviously, we're not going home the way we wanted to."

Syracuse then scored the first seven points of the extra period and won its 14th straight.

"Thank God he was on the line," said McNamara, who scored 17 points and made five three-pointers to run his career total to a school-record 251. "We knew we were going to play a tough game."

Aside from the Orange's loss to Oklahoma State, Georgetown gave Syracuse its toughest game of the season despite serious foul trouble for its top three scorers.

Georgetown's lead was cut to 14-11 at the half, but it fouled out with 4:44 left in regulation, finished with 12 points, five rebounds and five assists, and Assistant Coach, who was called for his fourth foul less than 2 minutes into the second half, had only seven points in 18 minutes.

Syracuse took charge early in the overtime. John Waller, who led a 15-foot baseline jumper to start the biggest run of the game for either team, McNamara drained a three from the right corner after Bowman missed two more free throws, and Warrick sailed in alone for a resounding one-hand slam dunk after a turnover in the lane by Jonathan Wallace.

That gave Syracuse a 74-67 lead, the largest for either team, and the Hoyas couldn't recover.

Wake: Galloway, Thornton lift FSU offense in extra period

WAKE, FROM BACK PAGE

"You've got to stop somebody and we couldn't stop anybody," Prosser said.

Al Thornton and Galloway took up the slack after Wafer cooled.

Galloway scored nine points in just over five minutes to give the Seminoles an 89-80 lead with 37 seconds left.

Thornton scored 20 of his 26 points after halftime, including

Florida State's first four of the overtime, and finished with a game-high 10 rebounds.

"We needed that type of effort from them and they all came through," Hanson said.

Chris Paul scored 29 points, just one shy of his career high, Downey added 21 and Eric Williams had 18 for Wake Forest. Paul was 9-for-16 from the field, made 10 straight free throws and led the Demon Deacons with nine rebounds.

Patriots' big what Belichick is seeing

BY CHUCK FINDER
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

FOXBORO, Mass. — Willie McGinest launched into his sermon, his bulky pulpit on the field stall on the left, closest to the entrance to the New England Patriots' locker room underneath Gillette Stadium.

His congregants Sunday night were cameras, microphones and notepads.

His message was clearer than the sermon over Cape Cod: Selfish professional football players of today can pray to their fallen idoli elsewhere.

Here at the House of Unification, William Belichick presiding, there is nothing spoken but the word of togetherness.

"We exemplify the word 'team,'" McGinest said. "Sports kind of get away from that concept. You get one really good player, you're seeing them mouth off on television."

"We're not big on that. We don't have the selfish guys a lot of teams do. New guys get that pretty quickly."

They strive for unity as one. It is the Patriots way of Belichick and Scott Pioli, the vice president and player personnel director who first joined the coach in Cleveland in 1992. Together in New England since 2000, they have found their calling together: bring the right players into the team, insure cohesion and victories will come.

This is how a team went from \$10 million over the salary cap and only 36 Patriots on the roster in 2000 and won a Super Bowl the next season. This is how a team ended 42 starters and 25 different lineups last season to win another Super Bowl. This is how a team won 30 of its past 32 games and rolls into Heinz Field for the AFC championship game Sunday with a starting lineup that changed almost weekly this season.

You think the Pittsburgh Steelers endured injuries and alterations? The Patriots (15-2) compete with them statistically in those categories, with 19 starters on offense and 20 on defense.

Sunday night, when the Patriots upended popular pick Indianapolis Colts, limiting the record-setting offense to just one field goal in a 20-3 victory, New England had another new starter. Twelve-year veteran Troy Brown revved in telling the media afterward that it was his first start at wide receiver this season, after 51 starts in the previous five seasons.

No wonder Belichick and Pioli, according to their gospel of unification, this particular old guy is a nickel back now. Plays it with passion and abandon, as weird as a receiver? No, 80 looks in the secondary. Plays it regularly — with the Colts seemingly picking on him Sunday with eight passes to slot re-

ceiver Brandon Stokely — but also still plays receiver (two catches for 13 yards) and returns punts (two for 28). Plays it all because it is the Patriots' thing to do.

"I did start calling up all the networks and saying 'Come cover me' because I'm playing both ways now," Brown said. "It doesn't matter if I start or not. My team needs me in a position that I wasn't used to playing (defensive back), and that's what I did. Whatever it takes to help this football team."

"A lot of guys wouldn't do that," Patriots linebacker Ted Johnson said.

It is the philosophy Pioli and Belichick sell when searching for players, and their Patriots buy, buy ... all the way to a 60-27 record since 2000.

Linebacker Mike Vrabel, a player the Steelers never could quite find a steady spot for, found a meager \$225,000 bonus and a two-way home with New England — he starts on defense and plays goal-line tight end, from there and they caught two touchdown passes this season.

Don Davis was a nine-year linebacker who started for the first time at safety in the Patriots' full two regular-season games.

"We had good cornerbacks," says Law and Tyrone Poole on injured reserve, rookie Randall Gay started 10 games in three positions in the secondary.

"We had guys step up who haven't had a whole lot of experience," offensive tackle Matt Light said. "We do it every year, but it is just amazing. This is a great place to play if you want to win football games."

"Your motivation is just to compete and put your best effort out there and win," Belichick said. "We have a lot of guys like that in our locker room."

So they can cut loose a malcontent like Lawrence Miller and get supposedly washed-up Rodney Harrison at safety. So they can trade for a disgruntled Corey Dillon. Because those players will adapt to the environment around the Patriots. It might seem like they're looking for sheep, players Belichick can herd. But, like McGinest sermonized, they're not.

"When you're around guys like Teddy Bruschi and Willie (McGinest) and David (Givens) and Troy Brown and Joe Andruzzi around those guys all day, good things wear off," said quarterback Tom Brady, the only nationally ranked starter on a team where the true star is the system.

Continued McGinest from his pulpit: "It's about the best team that's left standing."

Two of the past three years, that was this Patriots House of Unification that Belichick and Pioli built.

Eagles' improved defense finds strength in numbers

BY BOB BROOKOVER
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — This is not the same defense that the Philadelphia Eagles took into the past three NFC championship games. It's not even the same defense they took into Pittsburgh 11 weeks ago, when the Steelers steamrolled them for 252 rushing yards on their way to a lopsided 24-point victory.

The Eagles' defense that will take the field in Sunday's NFC title game against the Atlanta Falcons has much more speed, many more playmakers and so much more depth than ever before.

It also is in good health.

Defensive coordinator Jim Johnson loves all of the above.

The speed factor should come in particularly handy against the Falcons, who have that quarterback who's faster than a speeding bullet, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, if you believe the Nike commercial, capable of throwing a football out of the stadium.

Michael Vick is dangerous, but he's not Super Quarterback.

History tells us that a fast, complicated defense can cause major problems for Vick and the Falcons. The most recent proof is Tampa Bay.

The Falcons' NFC South rival has linebacker Derrick Brooks and defensive end Simion Rice, and they both have the ability to put pressure on Vick.

When the Bucs blanked Vick and the Falcons 27-0 in Week 13, the quarterback ran for 81 yards,



**5 a.m. Monday:
AFN-Pacific/Korea, Atlantic,
AFN-Radio**

Game time is Japan and Korea Standard. Guam is one hour ahead; Singapore and Hong Kong are one hour behind.

but he was sacked five times and threw two interceptions. The Falcons finished with 92 passing yards that day.

"Tampa has quickness," Johnson said. "And they were able to get turnovers against them in that game. There was a sequence in that game where Atlanta went right down the field and then turned it over on the 1-yard line. Part of stopping that team is getting turnovers."

The Eagles got second-half interceptions Sunday from Ike Reese and Jeremiah Trotter in their win over Minnesota, and that sucked the life out of Daunte Culpepper, Randy Moss and the Vikings.

That's why playmakers are so vital in the postseason.

A year ago, the only outside pressure the Eagles got in the playoffs was from their championship-starved fan base. In their previous three NFC title games, they have had one sack, which resulted in a loss of 2 yards.

They also have forced just one turnover in the three title games.

It's hard to imagine this Eagles defense, with Devon Kearse applying pressure from the outside and Trotter wreaking havoc in the middle, going an entire game without a turnover or a sack.

The Eagles have forced at least one turnover and made one sack in every game but one this season, and that was the season finale against Cincinnati when exhibition football made an appearance in January.

The Eagles are not a bend-but-don't-break defense. They were a year ago against Carolina, but that changed after the Pittsburgh loss when Trotter regained his starting linebacker job. The gap in the middle of the Eagles' defense significantly narrowed after that.

Vick, as quick as he is, takes his share of sacks, and the Falcons allow their share. Their total of 50 was tied for the fourth most in the NFC and the fifth most in the NFL. Vick was sacked 46 times, tied for second most in the NFL. Only Houston's David Carr (49) was sacked more times, and he threw 145 more passes than Vick.

"Sometimes Vick runs himself into sacks," an NFL scout said.

Vick is prone to surrender the football. He fumbled it a league-high 17 times this season and lost seven, which was tied for the league lead with Baltimore's Kyle Boller. He also threw 12 interceptions.

The Eagles, like Tampa Bay, have the speed to run Vick into mistakes.

As much as having speed and playmakers helps the Eagles, they also have strength in numbers.

Jets have new offensive coordinator

The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — New York Jets offensive coordinator Paul Hackett resigned Wednesday, ending a four-year stint marred by criticism for his conservative play calling.

The Jets wasted little time seeking replacement, hiring Titans offensive coordinator Mike Heimerdinger later in the day.

Hackett's departure was expected after the Jets' 20-17 overtime loss at Pittsburgh.

Jets head coach Herman Edwards "and I agreed that the time was right to move in another direction," Hackett said in a



statement. "There are other opportunities that I would like to explore."

The Jets showed little ingenuity in their version of the West Coast offense, ranking 17th in scoring this season even though Curtis Martin led the league in rushing with 1,697 yards.

Chad Pennington threw for 2,673 yards and 16 touchdowns, while the Jets ranked 22nd in passing yards.

Perhaps most upsetting to team officials was the lack of of-

fensive scoring in four games against Pittsburgh and New England, in which they managed just two touchdowns.

Bengals promote Bresnahan to defensive coordinator

CINCINNATI — Chuck Bresnahan was promoted to defensive coordinator of the Cincinnati Bengals on Wednesday.

Bresnahan, a Bengals' assistant last season who was the defensive coordinator for Oakland's division-winning teams from 2000-2002, replaces Leslie Frazier, who was fired two weeks ago by coach Marvin Lewis.

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On the edge of leaving

Without a contract for the upcoming season, James might part ways with stymied Colts

BY TOM HANSON

Naples (Fla.) Daily News

Over the years, Indianapolis Colts running back Edgerrin James has netted several enviable possessions.

He has a Bentley, a speedboat and a couple of NFL rushing titles. And if he isn't smiling, the sparkling bling on his neck shows off the riches of his six-year NFL career.

Commentary

But there's one piece of jewelry, one worldly possession, he hasn't yet garnered — thanks or no thanks to the New England Patriots. For the second straight season, the Patriots have ended Edgerrin's and the Colts' season. New England keeps everyone in Indy dreaming of a ring.

A trip to the NFL title game, however, isn't the only thing Edgerrin is soon to be without.

Currently, he doesn't have a new contract. And even though he has plenty of money, he might not be able to buy his freedom.

Edgerrin's future is much like Randy Moss's hair and ego — up in the air.

He becomes an unrestricted free agent on March 1. Working under a tight salary

cap, the Colts are unable to give the 26-year-old a long-term contract after locking up wide receivers Marvin Harrison and Brandon Stokley to new multiyear deals.

But Indianapolis could keep the 1999 first-round pick for one more season by giving him the franchise tag by Feb. 22. Colts owner Jim Irsay said in December that it's a done deal.

However, Edge's 37 yards in another loss to the Patriots might change his thinking. As the franchise player, the Colts would have to pay the former Miami Hurricane the average salary of the NFL's top five running backs.

That would net Edgerrin at least \$8 million for one season. But that's all he'll be guaranteed. No long-term security and nothing for his finger.

While keeping Edgerrin would keep the Colts' offensive three-headed juggernaut of Peyton Manning, James and Harrison together another year, it doesn't help Indianapolis' dismal defense.

The Colts are 34-6 when Edgerrin rushes for 100 yards or more, but that hasn't carried them past the AFC championship game.

Plus, Edgerrin isn't the only potential free agent. With offensive tackle Ryan Dinwiddie, guard Rick DeMonte and linebacker



Edgerrin James (32), one of four NFL players to exceed 2,000 total yards in three seasons, might receive the team's franchise tag, leaving him in a Colts uniform for another year.

er Rob Morris just three of the nine potential free agents, Indianapolis will fill holes instead of opening them for Edge.

And does one more season in the shadow of Manning benefit Edgerrin?

This season, his second after knee surgery, James finished third in the AFC with 1,548 rushing yards. His average of 4.6 yards a carry was the best of his career. He

caught 51 passes for 483 yards, which gave him more than 2,000 yards from scrimmage for the third time in his career. Only

Walter Payton, Eric Dickerson and Marshall Faulk have accomplished the feat more, four times apiece.

Edgerrin's reward is his third trip to the Pro Bowl, his first since leading the league in rushing in 2000.

"This means more because I was able to get back playing at this level," he said. "It shows how hard I worked to get back."

While a trip to the beaches of Honolulu sounds like paradise, it's not Jacksonville. And it doesn't buy his freedom.

The curtain falls on Vikings' tragicomedy

BY PATRICK REUSSE

Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS — Ridiculing the Vikings has been a staple for the cable TV analysts and the nation's sporting press dating to the 41-0 setback against the New York Giants in the 2000 postseason.

The Vikings returned to the playoffs this month, and actually won a game in Green Bay, but they again departed to hoots of press box derision in Sunday's 27-14 loss at Philadelphia.

The cartoonish attempt to execute a fake field goal made it too easy for the Purple's media critics.

Two dozen people on the Vikings' sideline making signals — some telling Randy Moss to "get off," others to "stay on," others wanting a timeout.

"The Minnesota Vikings just about have the games of football figured out, except for small matters like fake field goals are supposed to confuse the other team," wrote columnist Bob Ford in the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Cochs Mike Tice thought he was defending his operation when he said the Vikings spent two weeks preparing this play, only to have it foiled when lineman Cory Withrow took his regular spot in the blocking formation, making Moss one Purple too many.

On Monday, Tice remained proud of the concept, lamenting the Vikings had failed to execute "what I thought was a brilliantly designed [fake] field goal."

The loveable Tice remained to realize that taking pride in the scheming and practice time that went into this fake only serves to

Commentary

increase the guffaws among his team's delighted naysayers.

"The Vikings spent two weeks plotting, practicing, and when the time comes, it looked like Homer Simpson coaching a Pop Warner team."

Who said that? Anyone who wants to.

The Vikings are this NFL-mad nation's punchline again — as they were after 41-0, as they were after Nate (Nobody) Poole knocked them out of the 2003 playoffs on the season's last play, as they were after Moss' reverse pass in December, as they were when Moss exited early in early January, and as they were a week later when he pantomimed dropping his pants.

You want the epitaph on this incident of the Vikings?

Here it is: They could fake a moon but not a field goal.

The tragicomic quality of this on-and-off season dates beyond the massacre in the Meadowlands — dates back precisely 44 years, to Jan. 18, 1961, when Norm Van Brocklin was selected the Vikings' first coach.

He was forceful, wacky and eventually futile. His six seasons were the first act in the Purple's eternal black comedy.

Now, we have Act V or VI, and it dates to when?

Right — to Jan. 17, 1999, when Gary Anderson was named field goal, and Morten Andersen made him, and a 15-1 offensive machine failed to reach the Super Bowl.



Star receiver Randy Moss' antics this season have exemplified the lack of discipline that is damaging Minnesota's chances of success.

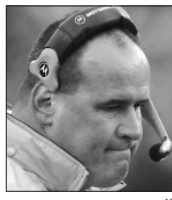
If you don't think this is all connected, tell me then, who was the placekicker lined up for a chip shot Sunday in Philly, when Big Mike decided it was time to forgo three points and unveil the brilliantly devised scheme he had bursting inside his large cranium for two weeks?

Morten Andersen, that's who. Yup. This is all connected. Good things happen to the Vikings, so bad things can happen to the Vikings. Consider:

■ Van Brocklin and his rookie quarterback, Frank Tarantenko, beat the Chicago Bears in the team's first game, so they could both depart six years later in a bitter dispute.

■ Tice and his Vikings upset the Packers in a first playoff meeting between rivals, so Tice and his Vikings can play the stooges for their hooting critics a week later, turning brilliant design into a scene from a Wes Anderson movie.

■ The Vikings draft Moss in April 1998 and immediately put together an amazing offensive machine, so six years later they can be the fools for the nation's football followers.



Vikings coach Mike Tice touted his call for a fake field goal on Sunday, which resulted in failure when the team did not have the proper personnel on the field.

Tice dedicated much effort — starting in minicamps — to bring more discipline. All the barking, all the drills, and the Vikings reduced their penalty total from 127 in 2003 to 117 this season.

Some progress, and then came Sunday, when four of the Eagles' 10 most important plays were Vikings penalties against Philly's receivers.

The Vikings remained unhappy Monday over the ticky-tacky nature of three of those calls. But maybe a team with a water-squirrel, early-leaving, moon-faking star receiver is going to look guilty in any 50-50 situation.

Maybe a franchise that has as its public face someone who is proud to say he doesn't listen to anybody and never will — maybe that's a team that will stay true to its tragicomic roots, until the organization finds the guts to make a move that would be as bold and dramatic as Tarantenko's return from the Giants in 1972.

This is football. Discipline is needed to win. As long as Moss is around, the Vikings won't have it.

Bettis likely to start for Steelers

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — There's no suspense this time: Pittsburgh Steelers running back Jerome Bettis seems certain to start Sunday's AFC championship game against the New England Patriots.

Last week, coach Bill Cowher tried to keep the New York Jets guessing by not revealing whether Bettis or Duane Staley would start.

Bettis went on to run for 101 yards in a 20-17 overtime victory — his seventh 100-yard game in as many starts. Staley, sidelined much of the second half of the season with a sore hamstring, ran the best he has in weeks with 54 yards on 11 carries. Staley carried the ball on six of Pittsburgh's seven running plays in overtime.

Staley's performance raised questions about whether he might start, but Cowher apparently doesn't want to risk curtailing Bettis' effectiveness by sitting him early.

Asked Tuesday if Bettis would start, Cowher said, "Probably."

But Cowher also said that Staley is likely to play more than he did Saturday, when he did not carry until the second half.

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With game on line, Wake Forest falters

FSU capitalizes on end of No. 3 Deacons' free-throw streak

BY BRENT KALLESTAD
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Wake Forest was right where it wanted to be: at the foul line with a chance to take the lead.

Then, the third-ranked Demon Deacons' top free-throw shooter did the unthinkable. He missed.

Wake Forest's NCAA record-streak of 50 consecutive free throws ended on Taron Downey's miss with the game tied at 76 and 4 seconds left, and Florida State went on to win 91-83 in overtime Tuesday night.

"That was a moment where I was probably a little concerned," Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton said.

"They had hit, what, 50 straight free throws."

Downey was fouled by Ralph Mims while making a desperation three-pointer.

"It felt good when it left my hand," Downey said. "But you know, it happens like that sometimes."

Wake Forest (15-2, 4-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) made 32 straight foul shots Saturday in a 95-82 victory over North Carolina and its first 18 Tuesday night before Downey's miss.

Wake Forest's 50 straight free throws eclipsed the mark of 49 set in 1991 by Indiana State.

"They'd already set a record," Hamilton mused. "It was time to start another one."

Todd Galloway scored nine straight points in overtime and finished with a career-high 21 to help Florida State snap Wake Forest's 10-game winning streak.

Von Wafer scored 25 of his career-high 30 points in the first half as Florida State (10-8, 2-3) twice opened 19-point leads on its way to a 46-32 lead at halftime.

"We've talked about him for two days," Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser said. "He's a time bomb. Our players were cognizant of that."

Prosser wanted his team to keep Wafer from getting the ball. "I haven't seen a guy yet score without the ball," Prosser said.

Wafer was 6-for-8 from three-point range and 9-of-13 overall in the first half. He was one of three Seminoles who had career highs.



Florida State's Adam Waleskowski, center, celebrates with the fans after a 91-83 overtime victory over No. 3 Wake Forest on Tuesday in Tallahassee, Fla. Wake Forest had won 10 straight going into the game.



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